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GUIDE
ALONG THE
DANUBE.

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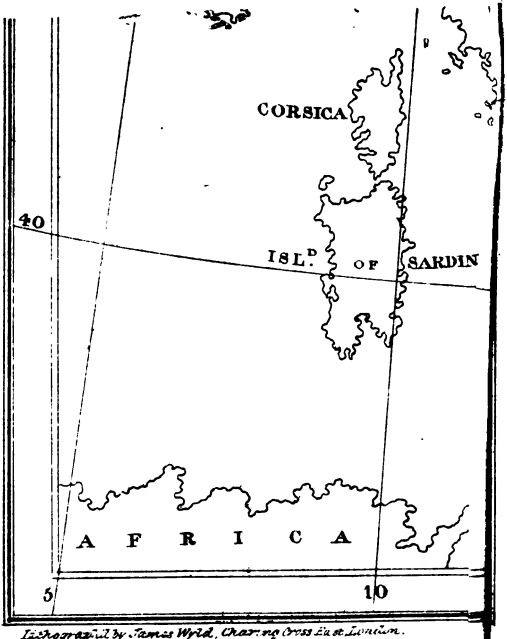

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A

GUIDE

ALONG

THE DANUBE,

FROM

VIENNA TO CONSTANTINOPLE,
SMYRNA, ATHENS,
THE MOREA, THE IONIAN ISLANDS, AND VENICE.

FROM

THE NOTES OF A JOURNEY MADE IN THE YEAR 1836.

BY

R. T. CLARIDGE, Esq.

WITH MAPS OF THE ROUTE.

LONDON:
F. C. WESTLEY, 162, PICCADILLY.

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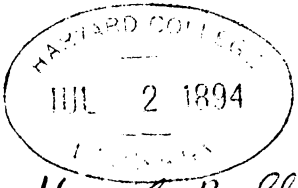

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PREFACE.

THE resurrection of Egypt, the emancipation of Greece, the revival of commerce in Persia, and—"though last, not least,"—the present state of the internal and external affairs of Turkey, invest these and the adjacent countries with a degree of interest they have not hitherto possessed; whilst the establishment of steam navigation throughout the entire length of the Danube, the Black Sea, the Bosphorus, the Archipelago, and the Adriatic, have converted what was hitherto a journey of toil and danger, into one of unmixed pleasure and enjoyment.

Few tours that can be made, combine so many objects of interest and instruction as one from Vienna to Constantinople, which drawing, as to a common centre, the inhabitants

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and produce of the numerous countries composing the vast Ottoman empire, presents an epitome of the manners and customs of the eastern world; while the ease and safety with which this tour can now be made, will not fail to render it a favourite one with all who travel for pleasure or information.

Those who are disposed to proceed further into the interior of Turkey and Greece than we propose to take them, must make up their minds to some hardships which we have not "set down." The general want of roads and hotels, the lawless state of society, and the absence of most of those objects of historical and artistical interest, which one is used to depicture as inviting attention at every step the traveller takes on his way through these countries, can hardly fail to disappoint the expectations with which any further exploration may be undertaken.

In order to enable the traveller to avoid the encounter of those delays, difficulties, and dangers, which must attend any attempt

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to search out many doubtful or unauthenticated sites of ancient places and other objects of curiosity, the tour sketched out in the following pages, embraces only the things worth seeing along the Danube, at Constantinople, in the Dardanelles, at Smyrna, Ephesus, Athens, the Ionian Islands, and on the way through Italy, by way of Venice, homewards.

Such an excursion, whilst it is most economical, both as to time and money, will give the traveller ample means of forming a judgment of the political and social condition of some of the most interesting countries in the world; while it will bring under his notice almost every thing worth seeing amongst those monuments of former greatness, included within the limits of Greece and Turkey.

Those who may cherish a desire of visiting the Ottoman capital before it is entirely stripped of its original Turkish features; or who, tired of the long-trodden routes through France, Switzerland, and Italy, may meditate a visit to Athens and the adjacent places, will here find

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a hand-book to carry them along their journey in the most agreeable and least costly manner.

The list of prices charged by the French Government post-office steam-boats, with the days of their arrival and departure, distances, time occupied in the voyage, &c., forming pages xvi and xvii, has been compiled from information obtained whilst the sheets of the book were passing through the press; and will be found highly useful. The discrepancies which may occasionally appear between this and the statements in the book itself, arise in most cases out of the changes just effected in the regulation of the steamers. This list, however, may be relied upon for its accuracy.

R. T. C.

VENICE,
May 1st., 1837.

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NOTABILIA,

INTENDED FOR THE USE OF TRAVELLERS.

Money.—Passports.—Apparel, &c.—Tea, &c.—Servants.—Carriages. —Luggage.—Steamboats.— Routes.— Disbursements.

I. MONEY.

As bankers' circular notes are cashed almost every where, it is unnecessary, and would be improvident, to provide any other species of money for foreign travel. These notes may be obtained of the principal bankers in London upon paying in an equivalent sum of money; but Messrs. Farquhar's notes will be found the best known. Their value will be reduced into foreign money, when offered for payment, at the current course of exchange on London, at the time and place of payment, without being subject to any charge whatever.

II. PASSPORTS.

The foreign office passport is more respected than any other in the Austrian dominions, and the circumstance of its being signed by the several am-

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bassadors in England, saves the traveller much trouble. It is almost unnecessary to say, that the greatest care should be taken of a passport when it is once obtained, since its loss will subject the traveller to much trouble and vexation. It should, moreover, always be at hand, as it is constantly liable to be called for. If converted into a book-form, it will be found very convenient, and less liable to be injured than if carried in its original shape.

III. APPAREL, &c.

An air-bed would be useful, but the Hungarian cloak or Bounda, which costs about 3*l*., and the Corfu capot, valued at less than half that sum, are not bad substitutes.

IV. TEA, &c.

Notwithstanding Kotzebue's affirmation, that the English carry their prejudices and tea-kettles every where, the traveller may dispossess himself as far as he can of the former, but he is strongly advised not to forget the latter. Good tea may be had at Vienna, Trieste, or Corfu, and it will be found a refreshing beverage in the course of travel.

V. SERVANTS.

Those who purpose to extend their plans of operation beyond the limits pointed out in the fol-

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lowing pages, will find all things requisite for their use and comfort at any of the capitals in the East, without the expense or trouble of taking a large quantity of luggage with them from England. They may also find in those places servants who speak not only English but the requisite foreign languages also.

VI. CARRIAGES.

A carriage, after embarking at Vienna or Trieste, becomes utterly useless, there being no roads in Turkey or Greece; and depositing it at any particular place fetters the future movements of the traveller. He is therefore strongly advised not to encumber himself with any such vehicle.

VII. LUGGAGE.

It is particularly requisite, when the traveller arrives in Germany, to see that the luggage is placed upon the different public conveyances. When it exceeds 40 lbs. in weight, it is generally left behind, and thus creates considerable delay. Too much luggage occasions endless difficulties, too little luggage, none, as all necessary articles can be tolerably well procured in most places through which the traveller passes. An old traveller judiciously said, in reference to this subject, that he considered, first, the least he could accommodate himself with, and then reduced it to one half.

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VIII. STEAM-BOATS.

1.— The traveller being at Munich, will proceed to Salzburg, and thence to Linz, either by *Eil-wagon* or *Lohn-cocher*; the former is the government conveyance, and reaches its destination in about thirty-six hours; the latter are private travelling carriages, the expense of proceeding by which is much less than by the *Eil-wagon*, but they are nearly double the time *en route*.

2.—At Linz, a new steamer was placed in May, 1837, which runs to Vienna, where the traveller can take his place for Constantinople, at the charge of £11. 16*s*.

3.—Hitherto, travellers desirous of proceeding from *Constantinople* to *Malta* or *Alexandria*, have been compelled to rely upon the uncertain passage of the English packet or of merchant vessels, the charge to the latter place being about 30 dollars. Arrangements have now been completed, it is understood, for steam conveyances to Malta.

4. — A Russian steamer leaves Constantinople for Odessa, on the 20th of each month. Charge 22 dollars. This route, and thence by way of Hamburg, is the most expeditious and economical way of reaching England.

5.—For the conveyance of travellers going to Persia, an English steamer has been for some time running from Constantinople to Trebizond, at the beginning and middle of each month. The distance

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is 530 miles, and the fare 30 dollars. An Austrian steamer, however, having been built and placed upon this station, in May (1837,) the passage will now be probably made once a week, and at a reduced charge.

6.—A steam-boat, (the *Maria Dorothea,*) leaves CONSTANTINOPLE for SMYRNA every Monday, at 5 o'clock, and makes the voyage in 36 hours. An English steamer, the *Crescent,* proceeds on the same voyage every Tuesday at 5 o'clock, generally making the voyage in 30 hours. The charge for a passage in either boat, is 13 dollars, including provisions. To visit the plains of Troy and the ruins of Assos, the traveller should take his place in the *Maria Dorothea* only to Mitylene, in the Dardanelles, where he will be landed on the morning of the day after leaving Constantinople; and having explored these classic spots, he may, on the following morning, take the *Crescent* steamer, which will have arrived in the Dardanelles.

7.—The Levant steamer, which has hitherto run between *Smyrna* and *Athens,* twice a week, making the voyage in about 48 hours, at a charge of 20 dollars for the passage, has been discontinued for some months, in consequence of a dispute with the Greek government; but there is no doubt that several other steamers are by this time on the station. As there is no lazarette at Athens, the traveller would materially secure his comfort, were

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he to be landed at Syra or Egina, at either of which places he will find a lazarette, and abundant means of proceeding to Athens. Should he prefer to proceed at once to Athens from Smyrna, however, he should not fail to go by the vessel conveying the mail, as the period of quarantine is in this case diminished by more than one half.

8.—The arrangements recently made for the navigation of the Levant, by England, France, and Austria, will by this time, in all probability, have furnished the traveller with all necessary facilities for proceeding from Athens to any part of the East. Hitherto, the only mode of reaching Trieste has been by taking a sailing boat to Kalamachi, which voyage occupied from five to eight hours, the hire of the boat being four dollars. From Kalamachi, the Isthmus of Corinth had to be crossed on horseback, which occupied about an hour, the distance being about four miles. A boat was here taken to Troas, down the Gulf of Lepanto, to Patras. At Corinth, a new steamer has recently been placed by the Austrian government, however, in which the passage may be made to Trieste.

9.—Austrian brigs leave Trieste for Corfu and Patras, on the 1st and 16th of the month, returning on the 8th and 21st. The voyage is made in from ten to twelve days, including a stay at Corfu for two days.—Charge £6. 6*s*. These vessels, on re-

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turning, are privileged to take a guardian on board at Ragusa, and as the quarantine commences at the time when this is done, parties on board are subjected to several days' less confinement than on board of other vessels. Besides this, the captains often permit passengers to finish the quarantine on board, instead of going to a lazarette, charging 3*s.* per day, for the table, &c.

10.—An Austrian steamer has just commenced running from *Trieste* to *Corinth*, about the middle of each month. When arrived at Corinth, a carriage will convey the traveller over the Isthmus to Kalamachi, where he will, no doubt, find a steamer in which he may proceed to Athens,—this having been agreed upon between the Austrian and the Greek governments, in March, 1837. The whole of this journey will be completed in something less than four days.

11.—The Ionian steamers leave Corfu for Zante on the 8th and 26th of each month, and return on the 12th and 29th. The charge is £2., the voyage being made in about fourteen hours. The steamers for Ancona leave on the 16th, and arrive there on the 18th. They leave Ancona, on their return, on the 21st or 22nd.—Charge £6.

12.—The English steamer leaves Corfu on the 29th, touches at Patras on the 31st, to take in her mail, and thence proceeds to Malta, touching at Zante, and on to Falmouth; making the voyage of

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1900 miles, in about 20 days.

13.—Those who wish to proceed to Egypt or Syria, may take the English steamer at Zante, on the 31st of the month. It reaches Malta in three days, the charge being £8. Another steamer leaves Malta on the 20th, and arrives at Alexandria in six days, the charge being £12.; and thence it immediately proceeds to Beroot, in Syria, which it reaches in two days. The charge is £6.

[It will be seen that by making two separate voyages from Malta to Beroot, *i. e.* stopping at Alexandria, the cost is £18.; whereas, booking direct to Beroot from Malta, the charge is only £15. It may be well to intimate, that similar economy may be generally practised in travelling.]

14.—The steamer leaves Beroot for Malta, on the 30th, touching at Alexandria. At Malta, the traveller will again find the English steamer on the 20th, proceeding to Zante, Patras, and Corfu.

15.—Those who may wish to pass through Sicily and Italy, in preference to going on to Ancona or Trieste, must hire a boat at Malta, for Syracuse, which will cost but two or three dollars, and give a pleasant little voyage of six or eight hours. Steamers run regularly from Palermo and Messina to Naples.

16.—A steam-boat leaves Trieste for Venice, twice a week; *i. e.* on Wednesday and Saturday. The charge is 18*s.* and the voyage is made in nine hours.

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IX. ROUTES.

	£.	s.	d.
1.—London to Paris	2	2	0
Paris (by way of Geneva) to Milan (140 francs)	5	16	8
Milan (by way of Geneva) to Venice (33½ francs)	1	7	11
Venice to Trieste, by steam-boat (22½ francs)	0	18	9
	10	5	4
2.—London to Paris	2	2	0
Paris to Milan (140 francs) . .	5	16	8
Milan to Ancona (65 francs) . .	2	14	2
	10	12	10
3.—London to Paris	2	2	0
Paris to Strasburg (68 francs) .	2	16	8
Strasburg to Vienna (60 florins) .	6	0	0
	10	18	8
4.—London to Frankfort, up the Rhine,	4	17	0
Frankfort (by way of Munich) to Vienna	4	4	0
	9	1	0

*** The fares from London to Hamburg having been reduced from £0 6*s.* to £2 2*s.* that is now the most economical way of reaching the Austrian capital. Individuals not pressed for time, have sometimes proceeded from Strasburgh or Frankfort to Baden, Carlsruhe, Stutgard, and Ulm; and in order to have a finer view of the Danube, have descended it upon rafts or small craft to Vienna.

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X. DISBURSEMENTS.

In order to shew clearly how the journey sketched out in the following pages is to be made at the very moderate cost assumed as the *maximum*; viz. £120. it will be necessary, first, to fix a sum for daily hotel expenses; and next, to point out the cost of conveyance from one point to another.

It is difficult, if not impossible, for one person to determine the expenditure of another, for in travelling, as in all other things, that depends upon individual disposition and taste; the object of these remarks, therefore, is to direct those who wish to see a great deal, at the least possible cost, consistent with comfort and enjoyment, and who, having resolved upon a journey of this description, for the purpose of making themselves acquainted with the physical, domestic, and political state of the various countries embraced in it, are prepared to conform to the customs of their respective inhabitants, and to join the public tables, where such are to be found.

This being assumed, the ordinary daily outlay, in most of the states through which the traveller will pass, may be estimated pretty accurately as follows:—

1.—*France*—excepting the capital—bed 1*s.* 8*d.*; breakfast 10*d.*; dinner, including wine, 2*s.* 6*d.*;—tea, 10*d.*—5*s.* 10*s.* a day.

2.—*Switzerland and Lombardy.* At expensive

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hotels here, the bed is 2*s.* 6*d.* the dinner 3*s.* 4*d.*; other things being about the same as in France; making 7*s.* 6*d.* a day.

3.—*Belgium, the Rhine, and Germany.* Here the expenses are 20 or 30 per cent less. The Steamboats on the Danube are well served at the following charges: breakfast 9*d.*; dinner 1*s.* 6*d.*; supper 1*s.* 3*d.*, wine included;—3*s.* 6*d.* a day.

4.—*Orsova,* where two or three days are passed, bed 10*d.*; breakfast 4*d.*; dinner 1*s.*; supper 10*d.*;—3*s.* the day.

5.—*Galatz to Constantinople.* While on board the vessel, the cost will be one dollar a day; in Constantinople, where articles are very dear, the cost will be double this sum.

6.—In the voyage to *Smyrna,* provisions are included in the fare; and there is an excellent boarding-house there, the charge at which is one dollar a day.

7.—In the voyage to *Athens,* provisions are also included; the expenses while remaining there will not exceed two dollars a day. On the journey from Athens to *Patras,* provisions will not cost half a dollar, and a dollar a day will be ample in that place.

8.—From *Patras to Trieste* all charges are included in the passage money; but if quarantine be finished on board, 3*s.* per day is charged.

Thus, when the number of nights spent in travelling—the trifling daily expenses incurred in des-

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cending the Danube—the non-necessity for expenditure on board ship—and the absence of all occasion for excess in Greece and Turkey, are taken into account, an average of one dollar (4*s.* 2*d.*) a day, will be seen to be the *maximum* of the cost for provisions, domiciles, &c.; and as parties are supposed to lose no time in reaching one of the places of embarkation; viz. Vienna, Ancona, or Trieste, *three* months would be ample time in which to complete the tour. But in order to provide for servants and other contingencies, 8*s.* per day is assumed as the amount of expense; and as no haste may be required, the calculation is made for *four* months. Thus, those who understand travelling, and who desire to undertake an economical journey, will be able to determine how far this may be effected; while those less experienced, will perceive that something is allowed for their inexperience, as well as for an extension of the time that is requisite to complete the tour.

Let us now sum up these separate expenses :—

	£.	s.	d.
Provisions, &c. for four months, at 8*s.* per day	48	0	0
The expense from London to either of the three places of embarkation differs but little, none exceeds	12	0	0
From Vienna to Orsova . . .	3	18	0
	63	18	0

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Brought forward . .	63	18	0
Carriage from thence to Mahadia and back	0	8	0
From Orsova to Constantinople . .	7	18	0
Guide for a week at Constantinople .	1	10	0
Horses for self and guide to Belgrade .	0	8	6
Visit to Broussa and back . . .	4	4	0
Horse to the Giant Mountains, from Scutari	0	3	0
Steam-boat from Constantinople to Smyrna	2	12	0
Horses for self and guide from Smyrna to Ephesus and back . . .	1	5	0
Steamer from Smyrna to Athens . .	4	10	0
Guide two days in Athens . . .	0	8	0
Boat to Egina and Epidorus . .	1	0	0
Two horses to Napoli di Romania .	0	8	6
Carriage from Napoli to Argos and back	0	3	8
Horses for self and baggage to Corinth .	0	8	6
Boat from Corinth to Patras, touching at Salona, and horse from thence to Delphi and back	2	18	0
Patras to Trieste	6	6	0
From Trieste to England . . .	12	0	0
	110	9	2

To this let us add a visit to Zante, and from thence to Corfu and Ancona, by the steam-boat, instead of going direct

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to Trieste; this would be an additional expense of	3	14	0
Making a total expenditure of . £	114	3	2

Thus, it will be seen, that a single traveller, (whose individual expenses are greater than they would be, if he travelled in company with others), taking the best place in the public conveyances, and denying himself nothing to make his journey of the most agreeable description, would find, upon his return home to England, a balance of nearly £6. remaining out of the £120. set apart for his tour!

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A GUIDE

ALONG

THE DANUBE, &c.

CHAPTER I.

THE DANUBE.

Extent of the River.—Scenery, &c.—Historical Associations.—Improved Navigation.—Its importance to Europe.

THE Danube, though inferior to the Volga, in point of extent, may, in consequence of its central position,* be considered as the first river in Europe.

* By placing the map of Europe at a trifling distance, with the S. W. corner upwards, it will be found to resemble the form of a woman in a sitting posture, her head being Spain, her neck France, her right hand Italy, and her left England; the Danube taking its rise from the heart. This view of the great European countries, as they lie pourtrayed upon the map, might furnish an interesting theme for imaginative speculation. Italy—the representative of the fine arts—has the appearance of being

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Taking its rise at Elsingham, in the Black Forest in the Duchy of Baden, it continues its tortuous course through a long extent of country, washing the shores of Wurtemberg, Bavaria, Austria, Hungary, and Turkey, and at length empties itself, by four mouths, into the Black Sea, at a distance of 1825 miles from its source.

A voyage down the Danube, therefore, which thus separates European Turkey from the great northern states, lays open to the observation of the traveller, the physical, moral, and political peculiarities of many and interesting countries—familiarizes him with the geographical position of the most important states of Europe, and furnishes the means of forming a clear insight into the main features of that great political problem which holds so prominent a place in the diplomacy of the present day.

Although not so richly diversified in natural scenery as the Rhine, the countries along the Danube have

a withered and decayed member of the body, while England, which represents the sciences and useful arts, has all the appearance of full health and vigour. Did Austria possess the enterprising and industrial energy of our own country, how might that river which pours forth its waters throughout the whole extent of her mighty empire, be made to carry moral and political fertilization to the hearths and homes of all her children, and to give them a distinctive pre-eminence amongst the nations of the world!

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been highly favoured by nature and liberally adorned by art—

"A blending of all beauties; streams and dells,
And chiefless castles breathing stern farewells
From grey but leafy walls, where ruin greenly dwells."

No river in the world is more intimately associated with interesting historical facts than the Danube. The detention of Richard Cœur de Lion in one of its numerons castles, on his way back from Palestine, is matter of record, but its chief historic interest is derived from the numerous heroic actions which, from a very remote to a very recent period, have distinguished it as the theatre of war. The Romans, who once commanded it, surrendered it to the Goths and Huns, the former of whom poured forth from its banks those hordes who erected thrones in Spain, Gaul, and Italy, and who, by the physical strength of their numbers, devastated and overwhelmed the more polished empires of Greece and Rome; while the others dictated terms to the Roman Pontiff on his knees, at the gates of "the Eternal City," within sight of the Vatican—extended their conquests into France, Germany, and Dacia—signalized themselves in the Crusades—and waged wars, offensive and defensive, for many centuries, with little intermission, but with varied success.

The cessation of these conflicts, however, has not tended to secure to the countries bordering the

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Danube all those advantages which it is so capable of conferring. The obstinacy of the Turkish character, and the hostile position in which that so long kept the Ottomans towards other countries, together with the natural obstacles which presented themselves to the navigation of the river, have been the chief reasons of this. All these circumstances, however, are now in a considerable degree removed, and the Danube, while it defines and guards more effectually than any other barrier could do, the limits of states and kingdoms, and fertilizes their lands, will become largely contributory to the extension of civilization in the greater portion of the globe.

The formation of a society in Vienna for the navigation of the Danube, enrolling amongst its members the most distinguished of the Austrian and Hungarian nobility, including the Royal Palatine himself, brother of the late Emperor of Austria, and which, at great expense, completed the navigation by steam to Constantinople, Smyrna, and Trebizond, was followed by the formation of similar companies in London, Marseilles, and Trieste, the object of which was to co-operate in forming an uninterrupted line of communication with the Eastern world. England, which had already established a communication by steam to Malta, the Ionian Islands, Alexandria, and Syria, is to extend that communication to India, by way of the Red Sea. France proposes to effect the

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navigation from Marseilles to Genoa, Naples, and Malta, and thence to Athens, the Archipelago, Smyrna, and Constantinople. While Austria is to achieve the same thing with Egypt, Syria, and Asia Minor. Thus, it is not improbable that even in the present year, thirty steam-vessels will be ploughing those seas, the navigation of which has hitherto been so incomplete. A negociation is being carried on between the various powers, for establishing a better and less inconvenient system of quarantine, and for facilitating the several operations connected with commerce. From these well-directed and enlightened efforts, it is but just to anticipate the happiest results. Merchandise, which it formerly occupied the carriers of Tyre during eleven months to convey from Byzantium to China, will henceforth be transported that distance probably in less than a month; while a traveller will be sent from one point to the other, with as much facility as a letter has hitherto been transmitted from place to place in other countries!

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CHAPTER II.

I. VIENNA.

The City and Suburbs.—Public Buildings.—Manners and Customs.—Amusements.—Environs of the Imperial City.

THE traveller, taking Richard or Mrs. Starke for his guide, will become acquainted with all the objects of interest on his way to the Austrian capital,—a place which merits attention, as a large, cheerful, bustling city, pleasantly and advantageously situated on the left bank of the Danube, encircled by ramparts that form a dry* and agreeable promenade, which commands an intervening space, called the Glacis, lying between these and the suburbs on Forstadts, which are thirty-four in number.

Although the suburbs contain several fine palaces, churches, and other public buildings, which present a general uniformity to the eye of the beholder, there is, nevertheless, an absence of that imposing effect which structures of a former age confer upon the parent city.

In the city itself, some of the streets, though formed chiefly of palaces, are without any preten-

* By unremitting attention, this place is kept continually dry, the snow, when it falls, being immediately swept away.

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sions to regularity; others are crowded with shops, which would not suffer in a comparison with those of the larger European capitals; while, towering above all, is seen the venerable cathedral, which, though yielding in height to that of Strasburg, has no superior for its sublime Gothic architecture. In the catacombs of this venerable pile, innumerable bodies, apparently defying the ravages of time, are seen in the most confused and appalling forms, some of them being of an extraordinary size. One may be seen reclining against the wall, despoiled of a leg, another presents only a decapitated trunk, while a third is still entire, the beard and robes exhibiting the style of the fifteenth century.

Of the numerous churches, two only possess more than an ordinary degree of interest; and this results rather from what they contain than from what they are in themselves. One, the Capuchins', enshrines a long line of the Austrian dynasty, with the remains of the Duke de Reichstadt; while the other—the Augustins'—possesses their embalmed hearts; together with a cenotaph, by the great Canova, of equal merit with Theseus, in the Temple in the Folks Garden, by the same inimitable artist. The Temple was copied from that of Theseus at Athens.

The Vienese are indisputably the most musical people in the world, but they have no claims to literary superiority. One public library, contain-

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ing 36,000 volumes, with some valuable manuscripts, including those of Tasso's 'Jerusalem Delivered,' and a Turkish Koran, is the only institution connected with the Belles Lettres in the capital.

In the Belvidere, Leichtenstein, and Esterhazy Galleries are a few fine pictures; some historical subjects by Schnoor, in the former gallery, are worthy of notice, only as samples of their new school of painting.

The Archduke Charles's collection of minerals and antiquities, and the Brazilian cabinet of natural history, presented by Don Pedro, are choice rather than extensive. But to the lovers of music, waltzing, and eating, Vienna is an earthly Paradise, where every man whose circumstances are above mediocrity, plays the piano, and where all waltz *à merveille*, and are unanimous in their respect *pour la cuisine*, which, though open to Epicurean criticism, is extremely well understood. The women, who may in general be termed pretty, are devotees to the toilette; but surpassing the French in extravagance, they lose sight of their neat and elegant simplicity.

Vienna carriages are proverbial for a close approximation to those of England, but are to be procured at about one-third of the English price. To keep a carriage is so far a matter of necessity, that the greatest domestic economy is exercised to achieve

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it; and when it is stated that all necessary expenses may be kept within the compass of £120. per annum, a judgment may be formed of the cost of a *manège* in the Imperial city.

II. AMUSEMENTS OF THE VIENESE.

In winter, the amusements of the Vienese chiefly consist in the theatres, besides which, nightly concerts are held, as secondary to the favourite waltz, so quick in its step as to form a singular contrast with the general character of the people, and yet so peculiar as to become identified with all those who live within the sphere of the paternal government. Each quarter has its saloons, not less remarkable for their elegance than their capacity of accommodating the crowds which nightly resort thither. Into these, no other introduction is requisite than the payment of from 30 to 60 kreutzers; *i. e.* from one to two shillings. Here nothing can exceed the decorum and propriety observed by all, from the *dame de la cour* to the *blanchisseuse*. Some of them join in the maze of the waltz, while others look on, and enjoy the enchanting music, conducted by one of their famed leaders, Strauss, Larner, or Morelly. Galleries and side wings are set apart for suppers, served hot, at prices noted down in the lists distributed to the guests. The

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moderation of these prices will astonish the inexperienced traveller.

In summer, the Glacis becomes thronged at an early hour, the object being to partake of a mineral spring, breakfast, and a promenade, under the shade afforded by groves which extend in all directions. Music is continued throughout the whole of the time, one band ceasing only that another may have an opportunity for display. The favourite resort for the after part of the day, is the PRATER, which adjoins the suburbs, and where large clusters of woods stretching along to the Danube, upon too grand a scale to permit of its being called a park, although possessing all the beauties of such a place, exhibit nature in some of her loveliest features. Here an umbrageous walk of nearly a mile in length, and a drive of great extent by its side, are ever filled; the one by large numbers of well-dressed people on foot, the other by two interminable lines of carriages, the interstices and another avenue being filled with equestrians of both sexes, consisting less of the *élite* of Austria than of her contributory states. Large trees, in all the pride and lustihood of their growth, afford shelter to thousands who refresh themselves with ices, coffee, or lemonade; while here and there, a building dedicated to the Vienese muse, and its orchestra illumined by her attendant stars, attracts crowds of loitering admirers around it. At a short remove from these,

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a circus for horsemanship, menageries, phantasmagorias, round-abouts, and shows, invite others to gratify their several tastes, and minister to their amusements. Sometimes the ear is deafened by the cry of a juggler, or assailed by the importunity of a fortune-teller; and the night occasionally closes by an exhibition of fireworks. There are thus all the concomitants and variety of an English fair, without any of its vulgarity or confusion.

This being an every-day scene, it might be thought that so much gaiety tended to demoralize and impoverish the people. The contrary, however, is the case: none are more cleanly, better dressed, or courteous. An English gentleman, who recently travelled through various countries, and the whole of Germany, under the direction of the British Government, for the purpose of inquiring into the condition and management of the poor, declares that he never was in any country that evidenced so much sobriety, so little discontent, and so completely the absence of indigence, as Austria.

III. ENVIRONS OF VIENNA.

In the immediate vicinity of Vienna, are many picturesque and beautiful sites peculiar to the spot. From the Calnberg and Leopaldberg hills, there is a wide expanse of country, including the villages

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and plains of Wagram and Aspern, so memorable as the theatre of war between Napoleon and the Arch-duke Charles.

Within the distance of one German mile, or five English miles, is

The Imperial Palace of Schönbrun, where is shewn the window fractured by the bullet of the enthusiastic student who shot at Napoleon while he was reviewing the imperial guard, as also the apartment he occupied when he made this his head quarters, instead of entering the city. An additional interest is imparted to the place, by the circumstance of the Duke de Reichstadt having, when taken ill, chosen the identical chamber and spot in which his father Napoleon had slept, to close his mortal career; and by a singular coincidence, the remains of the young prince were subjected to a post-mortem examination upon the same table at which the emperor had held his councils. In imitation of the military hardihood of his sire, the young duke was in the habit of exposing himself to all weathers, and keeping guard during successive nights;—a practice which often called forth from his surgeon, Dr. Malfati, the expressive words,—*Rappelez vous, mon Prince, que vous avez un Cœur de Fer dans un Corps de Verre.*

The gardens of this palace conduct to

Heitzing, a summer resort for the fashionable world, where many of the nobility, including Prince

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Metternich, have their chateaus. Here are also several large saloons, in which dinners are supplied to thousands, particularly on Sundays, when a band plays the whole time. Balls are occasionally given here, on a grand scale.

Closter Neüberg is approached by a delightful ride, on the banks of the Danube. The high antiquity of the convent, and the diversified character of the surrounding scenery, including the Castle of Greifinstein, renowned as the prison of Richard Cœur de Lion, produce a deep and solemn impression.

Laxenberg has little to recommend it as a royal residence, but there is in its grounds the *fac simile* of an ancient castle, filled with armour and other precious relics, which is replete with interest.

The day's excursion is finished by visiting *Müdling*, and *Bruhl*—the Switzerland of Austria.

Baden, about 20 miles distant, is the Cheltenham of the Vienese!

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CHAPTER III.

VIENNA TO PRESBURG.

Distance 60 miles.

The bed of the river being formed of stone and sand, which are easily acted upon by the force of the water, is changed almost every week. Divided into many arms, it forms innumerable islands, which are covered with shrubs and trees; while its flat and uninteresting shores are relieved in the distance by two chains of mountains, which indicate an approach to the Hungarian frontier. On the left is the terminus of the Carpathian, on the right the Levithe chain. Opposite to an Imperial Palace, called Theban, are some Roman ruins, and a church walled round, supposed to have been the first built in the country, having an antiquity of nearly 1500 years. This is said to have been the station of the tenth Roman Legion, at the time when two others were put in garrison in Vienna, under Vespasian, in the year A. D. 70. From hence a fine view is had of the Chateau of the Hungarian kings, majestically seated upon an eminence, and leading to the supposition,

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that the old Magyar sovereigns, contemplating an extension of territory, erected their palace on the confines, in order to command the country for many miles around.

A Diligence runs regularly between Vienna and Presburg, leaving the former place at 6 *o'clock in the morning, and arriving at the latter, in seven hours. The price is* 4 *shillings.*

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CHAPTER IV.

HUNGARY.

Historical Sketch of the Country.—Manners of the People.—The Nobility.—Fertility and Produce of the Land.

HUNGARY is one of the most interesting but least known countries in Europe. It contains about 12,000,000 of inhabitants, and an area of 133,000 square miles. Under the name of Pannonia, it was subdued by the Romans, eleven years before the Christian era, and was conquered by the Huns in the year 433, when the monarchy was founded. Attila, the king, whom Gibbon calls "the supreme monarch of the barbarians," established his court and camp between the Teisse and Danube, in 452. Having led his uncivilized hosts to Rome, Pope Leo and the senators met him at its gates, and prostrating themselves, besought him to spare the city, which he did, upon condition of its becoming tributary to him. In 462, the Huns struck terror into France and Germany, and after becoming masters of the latter, and of all Dacia, they were united

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under Charlemagne; but in 920, shook off the French yoke. In 1010, they embraced Christianity, and Louis, their last king, was killed in battle, at Mohatz, in 1526. In 1684, a bloody war commenced between the Hungarians and Mahomet IV., but the coalition effected between them and Sobieski, King of Poland, the Venetians, and Peter the Great, led to the utter defeat of the Turks, in 1686. Mustapha, the son of Mahomet, concluded the peace of Carlowitz, in 1699, by which Austria became possessed of all Hungary, which had been in the hands of the Turks ever since the time of Ferdinand I. Possession of the country was disputed, however, until 1739, when, by the treaty of Belgrade, the Sultan renounced for ever his pretensions to it. A decrease of the population and a check to civilization were the natural consequences of these contests, which had endured, with little intermission, for nearly 1600 years: viz. from 154 to 1739.

Voltaire describes the Hungarians as a proud and generous nation, the scourge of tyrants, and the defenders of its sovereign. As the title of a noble descends to all his posterity, the great increase in the number of this class* has reduced the majority of them to a miserable and proud poverty, and has completely prevented the creation of an intervening

* The nobles amount to at least 300,000.

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class. Ridiculously devoted to ancient customs, as indeed to every thing Hungarian, they are pertinaciously opposed to all innovation, and take advantage of a multiplicity of legal absurdities to exempt themselves and their retainers from every sort of direct taxation, tithe, and local impost, and to throw the whole burthen of these upon the operative and unrepresented body; who, having made the roads and erected the bridges, are obliged to pay the toll; whilst others, who from poverty are compelled to move in the same sphere and to engage in the same occupations, being shrouded under a title, pass on free. The ownership of the soil being restricted to the order of nobility, and the clergy—whose offices are patents of nobility—severely cramps the energies of the people, and retards improvement; while an uncertainty of occupation extinguishes all spirit of enterprise. Thus, the cupidity of the privileged class not only has the effect of excluding commerce, but of throwing more than one half of the available land out of cultivation, which would otherwise give them an excess of three times the amount of their consumption.

Though forming an essential part of the Austrian Dominions, Hungary is said to be a free nation; but this must be taken in a limited sense, for recently, when many of its most liberal rulers, who, it is but justice to say, have succeeded in introducing some useful changes, and in rendering the Danube

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navigable, wished to carry out their views upon a more enlarged scale, by extending the representation, establishing a free press, and removing some of the most onerous legal disabilities, they found that they had over estimated their power, and were thwarted in all their useful purposes.

Hungary may be considered as forming a little Europe in itself, so rich and fertile that notwithstanding the administrative defects in its government, it derives from its own internal resources almost every thing that can be produced in European countries. Wines, of which there are at least a hundred different sorts, vary in price from one penny to five shillings the bottle, (Tokay). Coffee, olives, mulberries, and tobacco, are in great plenty; while the cattle supply the German markets. Horses are good and cheap, the price of the best seldom exceeding £25.; and from the introduction of Arabian and English horses, the breed improves every year, although a little more strength is still desirable. Mines of all sorts abound, but they make but a small return, compared with what they are capable of. Fish and game are so abundant, that the natives assert the river Teisse to consist of two parts, one of fish, the other of water.

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CHAPTER V.

PRESBURG.

Description of the Town.—The Diet.—Hotels, &c.

THIS is a respectable town of about 35,000 inhabitants, and is the capital of Hungary. It is situated in a plain, at the foot of the Carpathian range of mountains, on the left bank of the Danube. A bridge of boats, 780 feet long, conducts to the public gardens, which are extensive and tastefully laid out, a royal palace occupying the highest summit. This was rebuilt by Count Palfry, in 1635, and enlarged in 1760, but was accidently burnt by some Italian soldiers quartered there, in 1811. It now only exhibits exterior evidences of its former grandeur.

The kings of Hungary, (the emperors of Austria having held that dignity since 1536), are crowned in this city, where also the Diet is held, the acts of which must have his majesty's approbation, whose policy of equilibrium, like the head of Janus, or the Austrian eagle, looks two ways—in Austria to suppress liberty—here to support it, in opposition to

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the aristocracy. The Diet consists of four states or orders: 1st. the bishops and abbots; 2nd. the magistrates or great nobles; 3rd. the knights; 4th. the free cities. The two former appear in person, and constitute what is called the magnate table; the two latter, who form what is called the state table, appear by their representatives. They assemble every three years, and sit during the king's pleasure. All the four orders must accord, or the sovereign can neither impose or change a law, nor levy troops. At the ceremony of coronation, the king, taking the sword of Holy Stephen, who first introduced Christianity into the country, presents it to the four winds, declaring that he will defend the kingdom against the enemies that may arise from either quarter. All religions are tolerated, one half of the magistrates being chosen from Protestants, and the other half from Catholics. In public life, the greatest liberty in both sexes is tolerated.

There are several exceedingly moderate hotels and lodgings at Presburg, and every article of life comes under the denomination of cheap. When the French besieged the town in 1809, there were 129 houses destroyed.

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CHAPTER VI.

PRESBURG TO PESTH.

Distance 140 *miles.*

The Danube.—Gonyo.—Comorn.—Neszmely.—Gran.—Vissegrade.—Waizen.—Buda or Ofen.

The steam-boat leaves Presburg at 6 o'clock in the morning, and arrives at Pesth at about the same hour in the evening. On leaving the city, the Danube divides itself into many arms, and is shallow. On each side is an extensive flat country, which offers nothing remarkable, until the traveller arrives at

Gonyo, a place pointed out for a rail-road to Vienna, as it sometimes happens in the summer, that large vessels cannot proceed higher than here, for want of water. In an hour from this place, the Virgin fortress and steeples of

Comorn are descried—a city which, amidst the various changes and vicissitudes that have for centuries agitated the immediate vicinity, never admitted an enemy within its gates. It still bears the same distinction that it did at the remote period of 1272,

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as one of the bulwarks of the Austrian monarchy.

After passing a number of mills in the stream, the voyage becomes more interesting.

Not far inland is

Neszmely, a place famous for the production of an excellent wine, named after itself, and which is equal, in point of quality, to new Rhenish Hock. It is sold in most hotels at 6*d*. a bottle.

Gran is marked by the extensive ruins of a castle. It was once a military post of considerable importance, and is now influential as the ecclesiastical capital of Hungary, being the residence of the Archbishop, who is primate and chancellor of the kingdom. On a promontory of the river, a church is in progress, which, when finished, will be but little inferior in point of size to St. Peter's, at Rome. Some short time since, a spring, similar in the quality of its water to that of Epsom, was discovered here. Magnesia is manufactured from it.

The banks of the river are enlivened by good cultivation, and a number of small villages present many beautiful pastoral scenes, in the approach to

Vissegrade, where, upon the top of a high perpendicular rock, are seen the ruins of a triangular castle, first mentioned in history, in 1077, as a place where Ladislaus confined his cousin, King Solomon, for a period of eighteen months. The prison, six stories high, is still to be seen, but it

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partakes less of the Roman Gothic than of the Huns' or Barbaric style of Asia.

Waitzen presents one of the picturesque parts of the river, whose course, hitherto eastward, now makes a sudden bow to the south, presenting a fine *coup d'œil* of the hills of Ofen, which place and Pesth may be considered as one, the former being the old town; the latter the new one. They are divided by the Danube, being connected in the summer by a bridge of forty-seven boats, and in the winter by the ice, which, during six weeks or two months, is of sufficient strength to sustain the heaviest carriages.

Buda or *Ofen.*—More aristocratic than its commercial rival, Pesth, though the number of its inhabitants has been reduced to 28,000, this place still enjoys the proud distinction of being the seat of government, and the residence of the Palatine, brother to the late Emperor of Austria. It is indebted for its present pre-eminence to Joseph II., who transferred the government thither from Presburg, in 1782. It was a Roman colony for the space of 145 years. The lofty and imposing fortress, showing none of the mutilations which it might be supposed to exhibit in consequence of having withstood at least twenty sieges, during the last 300 years, would seem to be impregnable, were it not that its checquered history records successive subjugations by Romans, Turks, Imperialists, and Frenchmen.

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The air of Ofen being pure and dry, is deemed to be particularly salubrious. Computations which have been made, show that they have there, on an average, but 83 rainy and 26 snowy days, in the course of the year; whilst in Paris,* they have not had an average of more than 126 tolerably fine days, annually, during the last twenty years. In summer, Ofen becomes the resort of a large number of persons, who visit its fine mineral and Turkish baths. From the observatory a good view of Pesth is obtained, and also of the river meandering through a vast extent of desert and monotonous country. The Danube between this place and Vienna varies in depth from 8 to 42 feet; its fall being 77 feet.

* See Bulwer's France.

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CHAPTER VII.

PESTH.

This city, though not having more than 64,000 inhabitants, assumes, not inappropriately, the designation of "Hungarian London." The extraordinary advances which it has made in civilization and commerce, since 1703, when it obtained its commercial freedom; the English style of its buildings, and the desire every where manifested to imitate the manners and customs, and even to adopt the language, of our own metropolis, make Pesth an object of peculiar interest to the English traveller, who is, moreover, sure to be treated with the greatest kindness and hospitality. Its proximity to the Eastern world, and its complete command of the now navigable Danube, together with the low price of provisions and labour, give it peculiar advantages for commercial enterprise; and it is gratifying to know that there is a large and influential class of persons who are labouring with much zeal

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to extend the sphere of liberal feelings, as well as to promote the interests of commerce. Pesth will, at no very distant day, take precedence of Vienna itself, as a great commercial city.

In 1802, a museum was founded; and about eight years since, a casino or club, having a splendid edifice—little inferior to similar buildings in our own country—was formed, and now exists in a flourishing condition. It is conducted much upon the same principles as those of its English prototypes; but is less exclusive, and more social in its habits. Strangers are admitted as honorary members; and the members themselves are permitted to introduce friends at dinner. Concerts are given every week, and during the Carnival, which generally continues for six weeks after Christmas, there is a series of balls. Several English newspapers are read; and we should not omit to notice that annuals have made their appearance amongst the literary productions of Hungary.

Upon the quay, in a long line of handsome buildings, stands the theatre, a large modern structure, to which are attached spacious dining-rooms, and a saloon for public balls. The colossal artillery barracks are deserving of particular notice. They were built by the Emperor Joseph II., in 1786, though their original purpose is unknown. It is supposed that they were intended for the

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residence of a number of poor families, upon a plan similar to that laid down by Mr. Owen, at New Lanark.

The principal amusements of the male portion of the population consist in hunting and fishing. In the former, the sportsman exhibits his scarlet coat, and English horse and groom; and is so completely *a l'Anglaise*, as not to be distinguishable from the followers of his majesty's hounds at Windsor.

Though the winter is much colder here than at either Paris or London, it is less severely felt, in consequence, probably, of the excellent German mode of heating the houses, by which an equal temperature is diffused throughout. Upon going abroad, only a small addition to the clothing is necessary, the rarified state of the air rendering persons less liable to take cold than in either of the just-mentioned capitals. An Englishman, on entering a church here, in the winter season, would be surprised at finding that such a thing as a cough is seldom heard.

To any one obliged to practice economy—especially if he be a lover of the chase—Pesth offers an inviting residence. Here he may live at one half the expense to which he would be subjected in almost any other place, have the advantage of sporting over an extensive range of country, abounding with all descriptions of game, and asso-

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ciate with a people proverbial for their hospitality. A carriage here costs only from £60. to £80., and the expense of maintaining it does not exceed that sum annually.

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CHAPTER VIII.

PESTH TO SEMLIN.

Distance 360 miles.

The Country.—Mohatz.—Vukuvar.—Ruins of Sherengrade, &c.—Fortress of Peterwarden.—Neüsatz.—Carlowitz.—Semlin.—Visitors to Belgrade.

THE steam-boat leaves at four o'clock in the morning, and has to encounter a number of mills, which reach into the very centre of the river, and materially impede its navigation. The route is shortened many hours by the canals which have been cut through a vast flat and uninteresting plain, that appears to be incapable of cultivation, and to have been converted, by the overflowing of the water, into a vast bog. The first remarkable object to be seen is

Mohatz, where the vessel anchors for the night, and which, though only an assemblage of cottages, was the scene of the great battle gained by the Turks in 1524, in which Louis II. King of Hungary

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perished, with twenty-eight magnates, five hundred nobles, seven bishops, and twenty-two thousand troops. After leaving this place, which is usually at four o'clock in the morning, the ruins of Erdod's Castle, in the distance, is the only noticeable object before reaching

Vukuvar, a Sclavonian market-town, of 6000 inhabitants. From thence, passing a village called *Illok*, the fine old ruins of *Sherengrade* are seen; and towering high beyond them, the remains of a Roman castle, commanding a valley in which is a decayed Temple of Diana. On the right, halfway between Vukuvar and Neusatz, is the old monastery of Oldescalchi, now a crumbling fortress, which, with the tower adjoining, belongs to a prince after whom it is named. A little beyond this is the neat village of *Carmeni;* and next,

The Fortress of Peterwarden, placed upon a bold and commanding promontory, 204 feet above the river, and supposed to take its name from Peter the Hermit. The external appearance of this place may in some degree justify its assumption of the name of 'the Hungarian Gibraltar;' although it was unable to hold out against the Imperial forces under Prince Eugene, in 1716, when they gained a decided victory over the Ottomans, leaving 30,000 of them dead in the field.

The view of the surrounding country from the clock-tower is very fine, and the peculiar turn of

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the river shows the fortifications to great advantage.

The town of the same name, in the rear of the fortress, is unimportant, as may be judged from the small number of its inhabitants, which do not exceed 3,000. A bridge of boats forms the means of communication with

Neüsatz, a flourishing market town, of about 20,000 inhabitants.

Next in succession is the picturesque village of *Carlowitz*, of an amphitheatre-like form, placed in one of many hills, beautifully covered with vines, and belonging to a Greek bishop having the same name. By a treaty made at this place, the Porte added Transylvania to Austria, the provinces of Podolia and Ukrainea to Poland, and Port Azoph to the Czar.

Semlin, at which the vessel anchors for the night, is a respectable town of 10,000 inhabitants, and having a small but comfortable hotel. Being the frontier town, travellers overland from Turkey are here required to perform a quarantine of from ten to twelve days, in a spacious and well-conducted establishment, in which are a Greek and a Roman Catholic chapel, a medical attendant, and an excellent *restaurateur*, who furnishes the table in a very satisfactory manner. Each person is accommodated with separate apartments, and the daily expenses may be estimated at from one to two dollars.

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From Semlin persons are allowed to visit Belgrade, by taking a guardian from the establishment just described, his duty being to see that the visitors do not expose themselves to contagion.

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CHAPTER IX.

SEMLIN TO CLADOVA.

Distance 200 *miles.*

Fortress of Belgrade.—The Bosnians.—Djezzar Pacha.—Town of Belgrade.—Prince Milosh.—Fort Kulich.—Fortress of Semendria.—Bassiach.—Moldava.—Golnbacz's Castle.—Place where St. George slew the Dragon.—Villages.—Kazan.—The Veteran's Cave and Roman Tablet.—Ogradina.—Orsova.—Baths of Mahadia.—Fort Elizabeth.—Skela.

On a commanding elbow formed by the Danube, and the Save—the great Illyrian contributary stream that divides Hungary and Servia—stands

The Fortress of Belgrade, which has ever been justly regarded as the key of Hungary, and has been the scene of many memorable contests. It was taken by the Turks in 1521, and again in 1691, and was re-taken by the Imperialists in 1717. By a treaty made here in 1739, its possession was secured to the former; but a subsequent war between the two powers again placed it in the hands of the Emperor, in 1789, whose troops penetrated as far

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as Sistow, where two years afterwards peace was again concluded, and the Turks once more occupied Belgrade.

The troops by which Belgrade is garrisoned, are sent round by way of Bosnia, the people of which country are bold and generous, and so jealous of their rights and privileges that they will not permit a Turkish pasha to reside longer than three days in the year in their capital.

From the Bosnians sprang that extraordinary man, Djezzar Pacha, who, when a youth, was purchased as a slave by Ali Bey, in Egypt, but who rose to fill the important post of viceroy of Cairo, Damascus, Tyre, and Sidon; and rendered himself not less famous by his defiance of the Ottoman power, than by his rigorous ideas of justice, which frequently prompted him to act in the twofold capacity of judge and executioner. His defence of Acre, in conjunction with Sir Sydney Smith, when Bonaparte, after failing in twelve assaults, was obliged to raise the siege, exhibited much of the energy of his singular character, and excited general admiration.

The town of Belgrade, which has a population of 30,000, and is the capital of Servia, was ceded with the rest of that country to PRINCE MILOSCH, another extraordinary individual, who, without the capability of reading or writing, has raised himself, in the space of twenty-five years, from the lowest

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condition to be Prince of Servia. The revolt against the Porte, which was led on by George Petrowitz, having proved unsuccessful, compelled him to fly into Russia, and during his absence, Milosch became the leader of the discontented party. Fortune favoured him above his predecessor, and a door of hope being thus opened, Petrowitz returned. Milosch, however, became jealous of his influence, opened a treaty with the Sultan, and ultimately sent forward his old leader's head to the Imperial city. Having thus got rid of his rival, he secured to himself the chieftainship, and about two years since the influence of Russia procured him to be declared Prince of Servia, where he reigns as king, paying a tribute to the Porte. Nearly at the same time, the Emperor of Austria, who is thought to be anxious to annex Bosnia to Servia, conferred upon him the order of the Iron Crown. His residence is in the village of Cragoywitz, where accommodation is afforded to ambassadors and other persons of distinction, who may have occasion to pass through it.

On leaving the village of

Pancsora, which is at a short distance from Belgrade, the river approaches nearer to the Servian mountains, which are of a bold and commanding character. Close to a sand-bank, on the right, is another village, called

Vincsa, when the Danube, winding north-east,

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suddenly presents to view a Servian fortress, known as

Fort Kulich. Many small and uninteresting islands intervene, and then comes

Fort Rama; after passing which, and the ruins of a Roman castle, there is seen, on the right,

The Fortress of Semendria, consisting of twenty-four towers; but the increasing width and agitation of the river, are all that deserve notice, before reaching

Bassiach, where the steamer again anchors for the night. Here there is but one small public-house, where, however, they sell a very good description of wine, called shumla, at 2*d.* a bottle, and of gin made of plums, at the same price. There is an antique Greek church here, and there being no sort of medical aid, the sick of the vicinity superstitiously believe the air of its interior to possess a healing quality, for the enjoyment of which some small fees are demanded, and of the belief in which, therefore, their pastors are not likely to disabuse their minds. In two hours after quitting this station, the vessel touches at

Moldava. Both the old and new towns of this name are empaled by a lofty chain of the Banat mountains, where copper mines are successfully worked by emigrants from the Tyrol. Not far from hence, the river forms a channel called Babakaly, arising out of the circumstance, as tradition

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says, of a Turkish chieftain having left his favorite wife upon an isolated piece of rock, (which now stands prominently out of the river), saying *Babakai*, or repent of your sins. On the right, and imparting a singular and picturesque effect to the scene, stood

Golubacz's Castle, of which nine towers only remain, as sombre relics of its former greatness, when it became the prison of Helena, the beautiful Greek empress. A little further on, upon the other side of the river, is seen

The Cavern where St. George slew the dragon, from which, at certain periods, issue myriads of small flies, which tradition reports to proceed from the carcass of the dragon. They respect neither man nor beast, and are so destructive that oxen and horses have been suffocated by their swarm, which extends for six or seven miles around.

It is supposed that the Banat, of which *Temeswar*, one of the finest and strongest towns in the kingdom, is the capital, was once covered with water, and called the White Sea, shells of fish being constantly found, on removing the surface of the earth; and to some of the castles inland are seen rings, to which boats have apparently been attached, at some former time. Trajan has the credit of having formed the present channel of the river, by which an immense tract of country has been

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reclaimed from the watery invader.* The wild mountain scenery, the sudden developments and contractions of the river, and the peculiar play of the waters, with the small villages of *Gorni Liapkava*, and *Dernukava*, which are separated from the immediate scene by a fertile valley, claim particular notice here.

Drenkova is another station for the night, and the steam-boat that will have made the voyage thus far, is obliged, in consequence of some impediments that yet remain in the navigation of the river, to consign her passengers, on the following morning, to a neat covered boat, rowed by four pairs of oars. This may, however, be considered an advantage, as it affords a better opportunity of examining many objects of interest. On the left, stands an unsightly ruin, formerly a fishing-house of the Hungarian kings; and here, the agitation of the waters, and the strong currents occasioned by the rocks and springs beneath, are again remarkable. Nearly opposite to a solitary public-house, at Swinitzka, is *Milanowitz*, a new town, built by Prince Milosch;

* The Banat comprised, according to Rufus Festus, the present Transylvania or Siebenbergen, Moldavia, Wallachia, and all the countries between the Theiss, The Carpathian Mountains, and the Danube. Ptolemy and other writers add Besarabia; but Ovid, who lived in exile on the right bank in Bulgaria, mentions the Goths as the possessors of that tract of country.

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and nearly opposite, on the left, at Tricolo, are the ruins of a champion's castle. The boats in use on this part of the river are cut out of solid trees, and resemble canoes, as do the natives that class of people accustomed to their use. Thirty miles, rowed with the current, in an almost incredibly short space of time, conducts to

Kazan, a place chosen by the Diet as a depôt for the materials employed in carrying on their improvements. Besides having nearly rendered the river navigable to steam-boats, they have made considerable progress in the formation of a new road, through projecting rocks, whose bases are in the river—from Moldava to Orsova. The expense already incurred in these works has been enormous, but it is estimated that a further outlay of at least £200,000. will be necessary to complete them.

The Servian mountains, which have an abrupt altitude of two thousand one hundred feet, are pleasantly covered with foliage, except where occasional rocks thrust themselves through, in fantastical forms, and add much to the picturesque beauty of the scene, which for some distance, partakes strongly of the features of the Rhine,

> "Making its waves a blessing as they flow
> Through banks whose beauty would endure for ever."

Between *Drenkova* and *Kazan*, the width of the river varies from five hundred to five thousand feet; the fall of the water, from Pesth, being half an

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inch in 600 feet; the depth, from three to one hundred and eighty feet. The echo from blasting the rocks, resembles the reiterated discharge of artillery. A natural curiosity is seen in the form of a tunnel, running completely through the mountains—a distance of one thousand five hundred feet. Near to this, is *The Veterans' Cave*, where a few soldiers defended themselves against the whole Turkish army, and protected the river both ways, for a considerable distance, obtaining provisions from the interior, by means of the tunnel, of the existence of which their enemies were ignorant. It was enlarged by an Austrian general named Vedran, during the last war.

Lower down, on the Turkish side, is

A Roman Tablet, three feet square, cut in the rocks, supported by flying genii, and having on each side a dolphin, encompassing the Roman eagles, and a Latin inscription: IMP. CAES. D. NERVAE FILIUS NERVAE TRAJANUS GERM. PONT. MAXIMUS. At the foot of this, is a stage, also cut out of the rock, twenty feet wide.

Traces cut in these rocks for some miles, have ever borne the name of Roman roads; and the perpendicular descent of the rocks into the water, leads to a belief that their bases were cut away to widen the bed of the river, whose rocky sides, shooting forth at intervals lilacs and other blooming shrubs, form a striking contrast to the opposite

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banks, where the unpretending village of

Ogradina, retiring behind a pleasant valley, takes its station on the brow of a chain of hills, which are backed by the summits of the Carpathian range.

On the Hungarian frontiers, called the Military Granze, the natives form a barrier against the inroads of the Turks. They live under a complete feudal system, holding all their lands upon condition of taking the field, or relieving the guard, when called upon to do so. This system commenced with Croatie and ended with Transylvania; and in time of war it furnishes one hundred thousand effective men, who, for strength and courage, form the flower of the Austrian army. On the left bank of the river, further on, stands

Orsova, a clean-looking little town, where the traveller will find tolerable accommodation, in a comfortable hotel, called "The Roman Emperor," at incredibly low charges.* Wallachian, Illyrian, and German, are the languages spoken by the inhabitants. As the traveller will be detained here a day or two, awaiting the return of the *Argo* from Galatz, he may embrace the opportunity of visiting the environs, and of examining the various objects of interest in and near the town, whence may be

* The charge for a bed is 10*d.*, for breakfast 6*d.*, for dinner 1*s.*, for supper 9*d.* A barrel of good wine, containing eighty bottles, may be had for a dollar.

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seen the possessions of four powers; *i. e.* Servia, Wallachia, Hungary, and Turkey.

Near the water-side, wooden buildings have been erected, for effecting an exchange of commodities with the people of the adjoining states, under such restrictions as are likely to preclude the chance of contagion. There is a Greek church well worthy of notice here, as also the Lazarette, part of which is appropriated to the reception of merchandise, and the horses and men engaged in its transport, the rest being set apart for the reception of travellers, who will have little beyond the confinement to complain of, though the place is not equal in convenience to the Lazarette at Semlin. The Austrian government having reduced the term of quarantine to six days, has called forth a remonstrance from Russia, who alleges that travellers avail themselves of this establishment to evade the sanitary regulations which she has thought proper to impose upon persons entering her dominions.

We should state, that coal has been discovered at Orsova, and that the steamers now obtain a supply of that article here.

Persons having descended the Danube thus far—an extent of 600 miles through the Austrian dominions—may return when they please; but should they cross the frontier, but for a single moment, they must submit to the quarantine regulations.

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Contiguous to the town, is

The Fortress of New Orsova, which may be seen in company with a guardian.

At a distance of two-and-a-half German, and twelve-and-a-half English miles, are

The Baths of Mahadia. Having hired a carriage, which may be done for four florins, or eight shillings, the traveller passes along through a grove of trees, (principally cherry trees), by the River Cserna, enclosed on either side by a chain of high and precipitous hills, until he reaches the famous Roman baths, seated in the bosom of the wildest mountains, and encircled by almost perpendicular rocks, whose bases are washed by the waters of the Cserna—a stream, which, in summer, is almost dry, except when increased and agitated by the cascades that descend from the neighbouring heights, at which time it flows with great impetuosity.

The whole state of Mahadia consists of two ranges of handsome buildings, forming an oval, three fourths of which are let out as lodgings, having an hotel amongst them. The remainder of the buildings are appropriated to the reception of invalid soldiers, who, in most cases, recruit their health here in the short space of four weeks. The place enjoys the proud distinction of having been built by the Austrian monarch; and the total absence of shops, the uniformity of the buildings, and the air of retirement which pervades the whole,

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give it all the appearance of a royal palace, with its appendages. The superintendence is confided to a single person, and is conducted upon the same system as the Baths Schlangenbad, in Nassau. The scenery around is very fine, and the woods are pierced in all directions, to afford walks and shady retreats. The season commences in the middle of May; and after the first fortnight, it is difficult to procure apartments. Count Szêchenyi, a liberal and public-spirited Hungarian nobleman, to whom the public are much indebted for the navigation of the Danube, as well as for almost every other improvement that has been introduced into Hungary, during the last twenty years, being desirous of extending the inadequate means of accommodation afforded at this charming place, applied to the Austrian government for permission to erect a large hotel, at his own expense. He was informed that he might do so, upon condition that no person should enter the establishment, until every other place had been filled!

A military band is in attendance at Mahadia, morning and evening, and a ball, to which visitors are admitted, is held once a week. Here the Hungarian nobility, who make it a favorite place of resort, throw off all ostentation, and mix with the company at the public tables. At these places, the conversation is chiefly carried on in French, although

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many speak English, which is much studied and cultivated in Hungary.

There are eight baths, possessed of as many different qualities, and said to be stronger in their mineral properties than any others that are known. That the Romans thought so, is to be inferred from the name—'Hercules' Baths;' and that they really are so, is indicated by the extraordinary and almost miraculous cures they effect. There are a number of Latin inscriptions in various places, and in 1828, a fine marble statue of the deity after whom they are named, was found in the principal bath, and conveyed to the museum at Vienna.

Some idea may be formed of the cost of a stay at Mahadia, from the following statement, which is taken from printed lists of the apartments there. Each room on the first floor is about 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, and persons who arrive in time may take as many rooms as they require. The *table d'hote* is 1*s.* 4*d.* The keep of horses is about 10*d.* per day each. The baths are 5*d.* each. Meat is bought at 1½*d.* to 2*d.* per lb.; and half a dozen of fowls may be purchased for 2*s.*

Having passed the rubicon, or sanitary cordon, the first striking object seen, is a small fortified island, called

New Orsova, the residence of a pasha. Nearly opposite, and high and commandingly placed, is

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Fort Elizabeth, at which commence the cataracts that have hitherto presented such formidable impediments to the navigation of the Danube; but the rocks by which they are caused, have been, by great labour and perseverance, so far removed as to render it no longer dangerous to steam-boats drawing but little water, and which were to be placed on this part of the Danube in the present spring. In the absence of these, travellers are carried in boats, rowed by four pair of oars, to Cladova, the voyage occupying about six hours; the baggage being sent forward in the same manner on the previous day. Two officers accompany the boats, to see that the sailors, who return on the same day, touch nothing contagious.

This part of the river is known by the appropriate name of the *Eisern Thör*, or Iron Gate. It extends 7,200 feet, in which distance there is a fall of sixteen feet. The breadth is 600 feet, and the velocity from nine to fifteen feet, in a second.

At about two miles distant from this place, are the remains of *Severus' Tower*, an ancient fortress; and then we reach

Skela, a Turkish name, which signifies a 'place of exchange,' but at which there are only a few huts of straw, erected for barter and commodities. It is an anchorage for the company's vessels, and the traveller will find one of them, the Argo, ready to convey him to *Galatz*. The Wallachian govern-

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ment commenced, but discontinued, a lazarette here. Should it be completed, the Steam Navigation Society intend building an hotel for the accommodation of travellers, instead of detaining them at Orsova.

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CHAPTER X.

BULGARIA, WALLACHIA, AND MOLDAVIA.

Description of the Country and its Inhabitants.—Sovereigns and Government of Wallachia and Moldavia.—Bucharest and Jassey.—Bender.—Wars of Russia, Sweden, and Turkey.

On leaving Orsova, the traveller has on his right, Servia and Bulgaria, bounded by the Balkan Mountains. Of Servia we have already spoken. Bulgaria is a fine fertile country;—the people, originally Tartars, but now professing the Greek religion, are said to be industrious and hospitable.

On the left, are the flat and marshy plains of Wallachia and Moldavia, forming an extensive region of about 350 miles in length, and 150 in breadth; bounded by the Pruth and the Carpathian Mountains. The inhabitants are a mixture of Dacians, Egyptians, Goths, Sclavonians, Romans, and Bulgarians; and as regards dress, aspect, and manners, they are in precisely the same state as when they were first subdued by the Romans, as may be seen by reference to the figures on Trajan's Column, in

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Rome. Nor could the waggon of the Dacian camp, or the implements of the Scythian farm, have been more rude than those of the present day. Even the cattle appear to have lost none of their primitive features, or their original untamed character. The pigs are hardly distinguishable from wild boars; while the dogs, like those in the vicinity of savage settlements, are only one remove from wolves. Dressed in sheep-skins and sandals, the peasants bordering the Danube exhibit a lamentable contrast to their neighbours. They are small in stature, weak, idle, and faithless, living in huts composed chiefly of straw, nothing of the consistence of stone or brick being seen; whilst the Servians and Bulgarians, strong and robust, are accustomed to houses, many of which are composed of both these materials. A long period of slavery has completely extinguished every thing like independence and nationality in the breasts of the Moldavians and Wallachians.

The Hospodar of Wallachia and the Prince of Moldavia are appointed by the Ottoman Porte, and being Greeks, and destitute of all sympathy or feelings in common with the people whom they have been selected to rule, the character of their government may be easily conceived. The principles of justice appear wholly unknown to them, and the most outrageous exactions are made, for the acquisition of property, during the precarious term of

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their dominion. By the treaty of Adrianople, the Porte retained the right of nominating these petty sovereigns only once more; after which, the people were to elect for themselves. The same treaty secured for them national institutions, and placed them under the protection of Russia, towards whom their adherence to the Greek church, renders them favourably affected.

Bucharest, the capital of Wallachia, is a large city, with a population of 80,000; while Jassy, the capital of Moldavia, has a population of only 30,000. Both cities are built upon swamps, and the streets, instead of being paved, are covered with boards, through which the dirty water exudes from the kennels beneath.

When the Russians first occupied Jassy, their band was in the habit of playing the music of some of the finest operas; but finding that the ladies absented themselves, they enquired into the cause, and found that they preferred waltzes and mazourkas, which henceforth superseded every thing else.

Moldavia is interesting, as having been the theatre of war, in 1611, between Charles XII. of Sweden, (aided by the Turks, under Achmet III.), and the reigning Prince, who placed himself under the protection of Peter III., when encamped near Pruth.

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Bender is rendered memorable for the defeat of the Swedish army by the Russians, when Charles took refuge with the Turks here; and still more so, for the obstinacy with which he defended himself, with only some thirty or forty men, against his former allies, whose hostility had been provoked by his determination not to leave their city, after he had taken up his abode in it.

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CHAPTER XI.

SKELA CLADOVA TO GALATZ AND THE EMBOUCHURE.

Distance 625 *miles.*

Trajan's Bridge.—Wars of the Dacians and Romans.—Kalafat.—Widdin.—Nicopoli.—Pellina.—Sistow.—Rutshuk.—Giurgevo.—Silistria.—Hirsova. Abraila.—Galatz.—Habits of the People.—Encroachments of Russia on the Danube.

At the distance of about two miles from the point of starting, are the remains of

Trajan's Bridge.—On either side is a large pile or buttresses, eighteen feet thick, with the bases of small castles that were erected for its defence, and in the bed of the river eleven piles are visible at low water. The Dacians, who inhabited the country on the left bank of the Danube, were a warlike and crafty people, and in consequence of the incursions they were constantly making into the Roman territories, Augustus Cæsar proceeded to secure the frontiers against them. A war was the consequence,

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which continued under the Emperors Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero, Galba, Otho, Vespasian, Titus, and part of the reign of Domitian, when the Dacians, under their Prince Dorpereo, defeated the Romans in two battles, and compelled them to assent to a humiliating peace. Trajan, who after the death of Nerva, succeeded to the throne of the Cæsars, marched at the head of the Roman legions over the Balkan mountains, through hidden and dangerous defiles, never before penetrated, (as is evidenced by a gate now existing in Bulgaria,) into Dacia, where after a brilliant campaign, Decebulus, the successor of Dorpereo, was obliged to conclude a disadvantageous treaty of peace. Within two years afterwards, the Dacian reassembled his forces, and renewed the war, but Trajan soon reduced the whole of the country. Decebulus destroyed himself, and Dacia became incorporated into the Roman empire, A. D. 103, under the name of 'Dacia Augustus.' It was divided into three provinces; viz. Transylvania or Siebenburgen, Wallachia, and Moldavia, and formed the boundary and bulwark of the Roman empire in this quarter. The better to unite the countries, the emperor ordered Apollodorus Damencenus to build the bridge of which we have spoken, across the Danube. Trajan died at Seleucia, in Armenia, about the year A. D. 115, when his countrymen erected the column at

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Rome, to perpetuate his memory, and commemorate his two Dacian expeditions.

Proceeding down the river, there is on the right,

The Fortress and Town of Florentine, with 25,000 inhabitants; and opposite, as if by way of contrast to its neatness and comfort, is

Kalafat, a Wallachian town—a wretched place, in which the houses are built of the most inappropriate materials, although it is the residence of a general.

The Fortress and Town of Widdin are the next in order. They are on the right side of the river, and here the vessel anchors for the night. A number of towers and minarets give the *coup d'œil* a pleasing effect. The fortress, though reputed to be the largest in Bulgaria, has alternately surrendered to Austrians and Russians; to the former in 1689; to the latter in 1828. The town is a place of commercial business, but a few straggling houses, with a ruin at Orave, impart the only interest to its vicinity.

The width and motion of the river here, would seem to give it some claim to the appellation of sea.

The Fortress and Town of Nicopolis contain about 20,000 inhabitants, and are famous for the first battle fought on the Danube, between the Turks and Christians, in 1396, when Sigismund, king of Hungary, in conjunction with the French and the Knights of St. John, was defeated by Bajazet, and the King and the Grand-master of Rhodes only saved

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themselves by jumping into a boat. Such of the Christian chiefs as were not ransomed, were compelled to embrace Mahometanism, or were put to death. Those who were ransomed were sumptuously entertained by Bajazet, and Gibbon mentions a circumstance which occurred at the entertainment, that strikingly illustrates the low estimate placed upon human life by these semi-barbarians, as well as the summary and sanguinary justice they were in the habit of administering. It happened that a Turk was accused of sucking the milk from a poor woman's goat, and the Sultan immediately ordered him to be ripped up, in the presence of his Christian guests, in order to ascertain the fact; an order which, we need hardly add, was at once carried into effect. Cruelties of this description were not confined to those of their own race, however; the Christians partook largely of them; although it is but just to remark, that the latter were little, if any thing, in advance of Mussulman humanity. A Turk might as well have asked for the Danube in the desert of Arabia, as for mercy in a Christian court or camp.

In 1828, the Northern Eagle floated upon the battlements of Nicopolis, which, stretching from a hollow up the side of a hill, presents a pleasing effect in the distance.

A little further on, is

Pellina, a Latin settlement, of about 12,000 souls,

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who chose this spot to avoid the persecution to which they were subject in Nicopolis. As the steamboat passes along, a number of them generally assemble on a hill, having a bishop at their head, and cry aloud, "Brothers, come to us!" imagining the passengers to be of the same creed with themselves. The Captain returns their invitations by a salute.

Passing through the *Boghaz*, or throat, as this part of the Danube is called,

The Fortress and Town of Sistow are reached in two hours. The place has a population of 21,000 inhabitants, and is celebrated for the peace concluded there between Austria and the Porte, in 1791, by which the former was guaranteed equal advantages with all other powers.

Further down the river, on the same side, is

The Fortress and Town of Rutshuk, with a population of about 7,000 souls, consisting of a *melé* of Turks, Greeks, Armenians, and Jews, who carry on an active trade. The fortifications of the place bear evidence of recent demolition. Horses and guides are to be had here to perform the remainder of the journey to Varna by land, if required. This will occupy three or four days, and cost about ten dollars.

The Fortress and Town of Giurgevo, being considered the most complete fortress in the empire, was the residence of a pasha, who defended it in the

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last war with Russia, until hardly a house was left standing. At present it affords a good idea of the discomfort that must necessarily attend the first attempt at colonization.

The shores are flat, but an infinity of small islands adorned by shrubs, afford some relief to this otherwise uninteresting part of the river. Further on, is

The Fortress and Town of Silistria, distinguished for its long and obstinate resistance to the Muscovite arms. On its surrender, every Turkish family retired. Both town and fortress owe their restoration to the conquerors; and the lands in the vicinity give evidence of the industry of the Russian peasantry, who were introduced on its conquest. Their superior mode of building and of cultivating the soil, will, it is hoped, afford a lesson to the indolent natives, to whom it was delivered up in the autumn of last year, on the terms of the treaty of Adrianople being complied with by the Porte.

The Fortress and Town of Hirsova constitute the last of the chain of Turkish fortresses on the Danube, which Russian policy has dismantled, as presenting obstacles to its future designs upon the Ottoman dominions.

Between Hirsova and Ibraila, the river is famous for pelicans, sometimes as many as a hundred being seen in a flock. The flat and insipid landscape is bounded on the right by the Maczin mountains, backed by those of the Balkan.

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Lower down, on the opposite bank, is

Ibraila, a commercial town of 25,000 inhabitants, with an excellent harbour. In bad weather, the waters in this part of the river are agitated in an almost incredible manner.

Galatz is a miserable Moldavian town, though said to be of considerable commercial importance. It is the residence of British and other consuls, who appear to occupy the only tolerable houses. Hotels there are none, and in wet weather the streets are impassable, except where planks are laid across; and these being generally broken or rotten, subject the passenger to considerable inconvenience, at almost every turn.

The Gothic waggons, here, having wheels formed of mere circular pieces of wood cut off from the trunks of large trees, and drawn by oxen *à la Gordian*, conducted by men enveloped in skins of beasts, show how perfectly unconscious the inhabitants are of the improvements going on in the world. Proceeding into the interior, the traveller cannot fail to be struck with the Ethiopian-like indifference of the peasantry, who evince no desire either to acquire new ideas, or to perpetuate or communicate their old ones.

From *Galatz* to the embouchure of the Danube, the distance is about eighty-five miles, which is now made, in the new steamer—the *Ferdinand*—in ten hours. The river sweeps along between the

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reedy and boggy margins of Bessarabia, on the one side, and the *Delta*, or neutral ground, on the other; either shore presenting a monotonous extent of flat and dreary country, as far as the eye can reach, without any thing to relieve it, until the vessel passes the bar, where the river merges into the EUXINE, or BLACK SEA.

Having thus completed our journey along the Danube, it may not be uninteresting to advert, in a summary way, to the ambitious policy of Russia, in reference to the navigation of this most important river, which runs through the very heart of Europe, and which is capable, therefore, of being rendered subservient to the highest purposes of civilization, commerce, and political freedom. It is evident that Russia has never been indifferent to the advantages which the command of the Danube would confer upon her, in prosecuting what no longer remains a matter of doubt—her ultimate designs upon the Turkish empire. Without avowing her purposes, she has been gradually extending her influence and power along its shores, and has already given sufficient proofs, that she is alike indifferent, in the pursuit of territorial aggrandizement, to the faith of treaties, and the force of moral obligations.

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By the Treaty of Bucharest, in 1812, Russia obtained the province of Bessarabia; the Delta, formed between the two principal mouths of the Danube, however, being reserved as neutral ground. At the congress of Vienna, the power which the annexation of this country to the Russian dominions threw into the hands of the Autocrat, in relation to the passage of the river, was a thing of too great importance to be overlooked, and it was expressly stipulated in the treaty then executed by the allied powers, that the navigation of the Danube should remain free to the commerce of all nations. Russia was not in a condition to contest this stipulation, because to do so, would have involved the necessity of revealing the character of her sinister policy; but subsequent events have shewn, that she only held herself bound by the treaty, until she could command the means of setting it at defiance. By the Treaty of Adrianople, she obtained the actual possession of a most important part of the Turkish dominions upon the Danube, which she was to hold until certain conditions she had imposed upon Turkey were fulfilled; a contingency which she had hoped would never arrive, as was evident from the rebuilding and fortifying of Silistria, so as to make it one of the most formidable fortresses on the Danube. But being disappointed in this expectation, she determined to make the best use of the influence she had acquired

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by the same treaty, in the provinces of Wallachia and Moldavia, of which she became the 'protectress,' and for the exercise of which maternal function, she has garrisoned those countries with her Cossacks! On the right bank of the Danube, her power is scarcely less. Prince Milosch, who is in no inconsiderable degree indebted to Russia for the sovereignty of Servia, is not likely to stand in the way of any thing attempted by the Emperor; while Bosnia and Bulgaria, in which a discontented and insurrectionary spirit is sedulously fostered, as part of the policy of the court of St. Petersburg, will become ready instruments for effecting its purposes, when the fitting time shall have arrived.

Austria, in the mean time, is not insensible to the ambitious projects of the Autocrat, nor wanting in her efforts to thwart them. She foresaw, that the emancipation of Greece might be turned to good account in this way, and embraced the earliest opportunity that presented itself, to educe some practical advantage from its political independence. In the Treaty of Commerce executed between the two powers, in March, 1834, a clause was inserted, securing to Greek vessels the free navigation of the Danube; thus counteracting the selfish designs of Russia, by asserting, on behalf of Europe, a right which the cabinet of St. Petersburg dared not formally to dispute. The subsequent establishment of a line of Austrian steamers on the river,

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guarantees to other nations a right of passage, which they will continue to enjoy, until the imbecility of the British government shall have encouraged Russia to throw off all reserve, and seize at once upon the Danube and the Dardanelles—a contingency which her recent boldness might warrant us in believing to be not very remote.

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CHAPTER XII.

FROM THE EMBOUCHURE OF THE DANUBE TO CONSTANTINOPLE.

Distance 370 *miles.*

Embouchure of the Danube.—Varna.—Victory of the Ottomans over the Hungarians here.—The Bosphorus.—Scenery of the Country.—Buyukdere.—Terapia.—Various Buildings.—View from the Golden Horn.—Arrival at Galata.

Of the four mouths by which the Danube empties itself into the Black Sea, that of Sulina, being the safest and best, is the one through which the vessels generally pass. These mouths are separated from each other by low marshy islands, often covered with water, and which run into the sea in the shape of sand banks.

In about eighteen hours after the vessel leaves the embouchure of the river, a number of mosques and minarets indicate the approach to the strong military position, on the western coast, and about midway between Sulina and Constantinople, called *Varna.*—This place is celebrated for the signal

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defeat of the Hungarians, on the 10th of November, 1444. Ladislaus, their king, in his first campaign against the Turks, under Amurat, had reached St. Sophia, on his way to Adrianople, when winter approaching, a treaty was entered into, between the belligerent parties. The Sultan swore by Mahomet, the twenty-four prophets, the souls of his father and himself, and by his sword; while Ladislaus swore by all that should have bound a Christian, to hold the treaty sacred for the space of two years. Upon the faith of this engagement, the Sultan retired his forces into Asia, but shortly afterwards the Pope seeing that this truce interfered with arrangements he was making in Italy, for another crusade, dispatched a cardinal to remonstrate with the King, and to absolve him from his oath, on the plea, that although an oath in a good cause was binding, one tending to the loss or injury of others, or in favour of infidels, was void. Ladislaus entered into his plans, and having concerted with the Christian powers, who undertook to defend the Hellespont and the Bosphorus, and to furnish troops from Constantinople, again had recourse to arms.

Amurat, though obstinately opposed, succeeded in crossing into Europe, with 60,000 men, and met his enemy at Varna, where, before commencing the action, he took from his breast the violated treaty, and holding it up to heaven, cried aloud:—"Oh Christ! thou seest the treaty sworn to in thy name:

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if thou art the True God, it is for thee to punish the perjurer!" The battle was contested with great bravery and slaughter, and ended in the total defeat of the King, who was killed, as was also the Cardinal, who had absolved him!

This disastrous event effectually checked the ardour and neutralised the power of the Latin fanatics, and nine years afterwards the imperial city fell under the scymitar of Mahomet, Amurat's son—the Greek emperor, Constantine Paleologue, who died in its defence, having in vain called upon the Christians for assistance.

After the battle of Mohatz, the banners of the great prophet were unfurled upon every fortress on the Danube, even to the Austrian capital, which was besieged in 1533, but from which the Turks were ultimately obliged to retire, with the loss of 40,000 men.

The vessel remains at Varna a sufficient length of time to enable the stranger to form a tolerable idea of a Turkish town. There are the palace of a pasha, a mosque, a hospital, several fountains, and two or three coffee-houses, much frequented by the Turks. The men, who are larger and finer persons here, than at Constantinople, dress more *à la Turque*.

Roman and Greek coins are frequently found here, and are offered for sale by children in the streets.

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The boat having left Varna, to complete the last portion of the voyage, the impatient traveller will descry, in about eighteen hours, the castles that protect

The Bosphorus, the strait which, running out of the sea of Marmora into the Euxine, separates Europe from Asia. The mouth of the strait being small, considerable danger is incurred in hazy weather, and vessels are sometimes lost in attempting the passage.

The entrance into the Bosphorus is defended by fortresses placed on the acclivity of projecting mountains, on either side, beyond which others are seen towering still higher towards heaven. On entering the Boghaz or throat, lines of batteries, apparently rising up out of the water, and built as much for appearance as for use, seem to defy all intrusion. As the steam-boat glides along, the eye catches only some of the more prominent objects, which, for the length of twelve or fourteen miles adorn both shores, on the approach to the "Queen of Cities." The European and the Asiatic coast are equally covered with villas and gardens, adorned in the most tasteful manner, having verandas and trellis-work, covered with roses. Those on the margin of the shore have arched entrances for the caiques, or small boats, through which, by means of short canals, they glide into the centre of the court-yard. Beyond the villas on the margin of the strait, and

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which have their foundations in the water, others rise in succession, stretching up to the summit of the mountains, and forming a picture upon which the eye might rest with undiminished pleasure for many hours in succession—

> "Struck with a splendour never seen before,
> Drunk with the perfumes wafted from the shore;
> Approaching near these peopled groves we deem
> That from enchantment rose the gorgeous dream!"

On the left, a fortified castle, which, from its height, seems to pierce the azure sky, becomes a commanding object of attention; and this is scarcely lost sight of, before some formidable batteries indicate the approach to

Buyukdère or the "Lovely Valley," a spot selected for the residence of the diplomatic corps. A mile distant from hence, another range of batteries, on either shore, mounted with fourteen large guns, introduce us to

Terapia, a small place, which is a favourite spot for the Oslamin *elite*. At a considerable elevation, is seen a Roman aqueduct which formerly conveyed water from one mountain to another, and finally into the city. On the left is a royal tan-yard, and near to it, a valley called *Kurkaghadge*, thickly studded with trees, and famous for *Keffs* or pic-nics. Proceeding onward, a number of fairy looking villages, mosques, harems, chateaus, and

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batteries, with the Greek and rich green cypress filling up every interstice, and the shipping floating on the waters below, produce the most beautiful effect, and almost overpower the senses. The vessel soon enters a sort of basin, when the ingress and egress become lost to the sight; but on a sudden, the latter is perceived through a vista formed by a number of white towers—those on the European side being called *Roumilly Hisar*, those on the Asiatic shore, *Anadaly Hisar*.*

The next objects which strike the eye are a new Imperial palace, consisting of a long range of buildings, rich in gold and colours, with the bright blue waters washing its base; while above, and crowning the summit of a hill, is another royal residence,

* This is said to be the place where Darius crossed on a bridge of boats, when marching against the Scythians. The crusaders are also stated to have passed into Asia at this spot, when about to imbue their hands in Mohammedan blood, for the honour of the Christian faith! The Towers were formerly used as prisons, and the doors are so low, that it is requisite to stoop on passing in or out. The unfortunate janissaries were for some time their inmates, and manifested more reluctance to leave their gloomy portals than they did to deliver themselves up to their custody. When the messenger announced the Sultan's pardon, they at once anticipated their fate. They had no sooner recrossed the threshold, than the bow-string was upon their necks, and their bodies dropped into the rolling waves beneath.

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built by the Sultan for his son-in-law, Capitan Pasha, grand admiral and superintendant-general of the fleet. On the right is a large harem, and a third palace, occupied by the newly-married princess; and opposite to these a range of barracks, the elegant construction of which is in perfect keeping with the whole scene. Further on is seen, in progress, another Imperial residence; and this passed, the widening of the river and an accumulation of shipping, indicate the approach to Topham Point, where the Sultan's present abode, the splendid mosque, and the extensive arsenal, with nearly a hundred pieces of cannon *en batterie*, form a *coup d'œil* that might be supposed to be unequalled, were it not that in a few minutes afterwards, the vessel casts anchor in an open space, half a mile in width, appropriately denominated the *Golden Horn*, where "The Sweet Waters," the Sea of Marmora, and the Bosphorus unite, and whence is commanded a picture such as no combination of nature and art ever before presented to the human eye:—

"The European with the Asian shore
  Sprinkled with palaces; the ocean stream
Here and there studded with a seventy-four;
  Sophia's cupola with golden gleam;
The cypress groves, Olympus high and hoar,
  The twelve isles, and the more than I could dream,
Far less describe, present the very view
Which charm'd the charming Mary Montague."

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In the front, is Stamboul's grand Seraglio, with its golden gates; and behind this, rising in succession one above another, appear numberless white mosques, with their graceful minarets glittering in the sun, intersected with houses,

> "Beyond the bounds of sight,
> Countless and colour'd; wrapped in golden light,
> 'Mid groves of cypress, measureless and vast."

On the right, Galata, headed by Pera, is not less beautifully attired, the rear being flanked by the sovereign stream; while on the left, Scutari, as though jealous of its European rivals, invites the spectator to survey her numerous buildings and cypress-loving cemetery, which occupies a commanding position on a lofty eminence, in front of "The Giant Mountain."

At each successive survey, a multiplicity of new objects present themselves to the eye, and excite a wonderment that they had eluded observation before. The continuity of painted buildings, with the golden domes and tapering minarets ever and anon peering above them; the dark cypresses and graceful plane-trees softening and subduing the glitter, and throwing around a spirit of life and animation; with the clustering roses which intertwine themselves with the trellis-work, and adorn the numberless gardens and villages, stretching along as far as the eye can reach; while the broad

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broad blue waters below, bear on their bosom the vessels of all nations,

"Many a light caïque dancing on the foam,"

form a picture which the fertile and graceful fancy of a Claude could never have conceived, but which is all that he could have desired.

Taking one of those light canoes, or caïques, of which we have just spoken, the traveller will be landed at Galata, whence he must walk to Pera, up a narrow and ill-paved street, rising almost perpendicularly, and called 'The Infidel Hill.'

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CHAPTER XIII.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

"Queen of the morn! Sultana of the East!
City of wonders, on whose sparkling breast,
Fair, slight, and tall, a thousand palaces
Fling their gay shadows over golden seas!
Where towers and domes bestud the gorgeous land,
And countless masts a mimic forest stand;
Where cypress shades; the minarets snowy hue,
And gleams of gold dissolve on skies of blue;
Daughter of Eastern art! the most divine,
Lovely, yet faithless bride of Constantine.
Fair Istamboul, whose tranquil mirror flings
Back with delight thy thousand colourings;
And who no equal in the world dost know,
Save thy own image, pictured thus below!
Dazzled—amazed—our eyes, half blinded, fail,
While sweeps the phantasm past our gliding sail.

I. Topography, Population, and Historical Sketch of the City.—Dogs.—Plague.—Fires.

The city is divided by water into thee parts; viz. Stamboul and Pera, in Europe, and Scutari, in Asia. The former and the latter are the residences of the natives, Pera being appropriated to the

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reception of strangers, or *Franks*, as all foreigners are indiscriminately called. Like Rome, Constantinople is seated upon seven hills, and comprises a mixed population of Turks, Greeks, Armenians, Europeans, and Jews, said to amount to between 500,000 and 600,000, although some statists will not allow them to exceed 400,000. There are, within its limits, 100,000 houses, from 200 to 300 mosques, and at least 500 fountains. It forms a triangle, almost equilateral in its form, and covers a space of five miles.

For the purposes of trade and commerce, Constantinople stands in a pre-eminently advantageous position, and has one of the finest ports in the world. These advantages, however, are thrown away upon the proud and indolent Ottomans, and their capital maintains but a low rank amongst commercial cities. The streets are without names, and the houses without numbers; nor is there any register to supply these defects, or a post-office establishment to facilitate the transmission of letters. The total absence of carriage-wheels, clocks, bells, and all sonorous occupations, leaves the whole city wrapt in almost unbroken silence; while the people appear to be mute, and desirous of passing along the streets without being seen. In perambulating the city, a bazaar and a cemetery alternately present themselves, as though the sole business of its inhabitants consisted in barter and death!

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Nothing seems to attract notice; there are no indications of joy or grief—no pleasure but debauchery—no trouble but death. Between prisons and baths they place their harems, and the capital of slavery—the grand seraglio!

Few cities have passed through more vicissitudes, or been more distinguished for extraordinary events, than Constantinople. It was founded 658 years before the Christian era, as the capital of Thrace; was besieged and taken by the Romans, B. C. 193; and received its present name in A. D. 324, Constantine making it the seat of imperial power six years afterwards, when it succeeded to its Italian matron as the refuge of all that remained of science and civilization, during the long period that the world was inundated by barbarism. Superstition and luxury at length rendered the imperial city the scene of internal commotion and the object of external attack; and after enduring twenty-five sieges, it surrendered to the scymitars of Mahomet I., in 1453, who adopted the symbol of ascendancy from the conquered empire, and made Constantinople the capital of the Turkish dominions.

One of the annoyances to which the visitor to Constantinople is subjected, arises from the thousands of lean, wolf-like looking dogs that infest the streets, and which are only to be kept at a distance by the use of a stick. Although the Turks have great respect for the canine species, they hold them

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to be unclean, and never permit them to enter into their houses; thus the animals, having no owners, seek shelter under the benches and sheds in the streets, whence, half-starved and exposed to the inclemency of the weather, they send forth yells in the dead of the night, and prevent the repose of those unused to the dismal sounds. They are permitted to increase and multiply without the slightest check, and may be seen from a day old to an age when capable of foraging for themselves. Nothing will entice these four-footed inhabitants of one district to make an incursion into another, although those residing in the suburbs will sometimes be induced by hunger to venture into the streets in the night, in order to procure sustenance. Basins, containing water, are often placed on the outsides of houses, to afford them the means of quenching their thirst, and men are seen offering coarse meat for sale, which the more affluent purchase, and throw to the dogs.—Instances have been known in which legacies have been left for the support of the dogs in a particular district. Many of them appear to suffer much from the mange, but the hydrophobia is altogether unknown in the East.

Another and a more serious visitation to which Constantinople is subject, is the plague. When this malady is known to exist, Europeans turn their houses into lazarettes, from which strangers are excluded. If obliged to go out, they use sticks to

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avoid coming in contact with other persons, and consider a change of apparel to be indispensable on their return home. By adopting these precautions they usually escape the infection, while the bigotted and indolent Turks, despising all such prudent means, fall a prey to its ravages in great numbers. That this frightful visitation is not indigenous to European Turkey is a fact beyond question. In 1834, and the beginning of 1835, Alexandria was subjected to its scourge, and one-third of its inhabitants are supposed to have been swept away by it. Upper Egypt, out of a population of 250,000, is supposed to have lost one half. Those parts suffered especially that were most in proximity with the Nile, where whole villages were totally depopulated. Any other but a Moslem government would have adopted prompt and vigorous measures to prevent its introduction into the capital, or the adjacent provinces; but they persisted in declaring all precautions to be not only unnecessary but criminal. The consequences were what might have been expected. In the summer of last year it was introduced into Magnesia, a town of Asia Minor, in its commerce with the interior, in the article of cotton, and of 50,000 inhabitants one half fell victims to it. From thence it proceeded to Smyrna, Adrianople, and the capital, where it raged with unprecedented violence, carrying off 1000 persons in the course of a day. It is to be hoped that the Sultan will at last

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determine upon establishing a quarantine, without which the country never can be rescued from this direful malady, which has at various periods visited almost the entire of Europe, but which has been happily excluded by precautionary measures, from the greater portion of its dominions.

Fires are almost of nightly occurrence in some parts of Constantinople, and their frequency and extent seem to have induced some caution on the part of the Turks, for on the tower of Galata, and that on the opposite shore, called *Stamboul Kalesi*, or 'The Seraskier's Tower,'—both of which command a complete view of the city—guards are constantly pacing the circle, to give alarm in case of need. It sometimes happens that whole districts are destroyed by fire. In 1729, 20,000 houses were consumed, and 7,000 people perished in the flames, and in August, 1782, an equal number of houses were destroyed. In 1826, a fire broke out at Pera, which consumed 6,000 houses, including those of the ambassadors; and last year, many were destroyed in a similar way. It is said, indeed, that the city arises anew out of its ashes once in about every twenty years, and this being the case, it may appear strange that no improvement takes place either in its architecture or in the materials employed in building. The houses are still constructed of wood, the only innovation upon the old mode of connecting them, consisting of a party-wall

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of brick being introduced between every fifth house and the one that adjoins it. The want of roads and the perpendicularity of the streets, as well as the costliness of the more enduring and less ignitable materials, no doubt prevent, in a great degree, those improvements which are, in this respect, so much to be desired. It is supposed, and with some reason, that the extensive conflagrations of which the city has been the scene, arose less from accident than from design, the Janissaries usually resorting to this method of expressing disapprobation of their rulers. Another motive which may have induced this class of men to produce these fires, was the gain they derived from them, as they arrogated to themselves the exclusive power of calling into requisition and directing the firemen. Extensive fires have been much less frequent since the Janissaries have ceased to exist.

II. THE TURKISH CHARACTER.

Origin.—Peculiarities.—Women.—Marriage.—Eunuchs.—Religion. — Education. — Language. — Divination. — Law, &c.

THE Turks, who were originally from Tartary, first made an irruption into Persia, of which they became masters, in 1065. In the fourteenth century, a Sultan named Ottoman, and who reigned in Cilicia, became the founder of the mighty empire afterwards called by his name. Having conquered

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Bithynia in Asia, and the provinces adjacent, he fixed his residence at Prousa, now called Broussa, and which his son Orchan made the capital of his dominions. His successors continued to push their conquests against the decaying Greek empire, until at length the imperial metropolis comprised all that remained of the empire of the Cæsars. In 1453, Mahomet II. attacked Constantinople, which he took, and terminated the Greek Empire in the East. The Turkish power now became an object of terror throughout Europe; Egypt, the Barbary States, all the Coast of Arabia, the Crimea, and the countries along the Danube, including Hungary, having fallen under its iron-hand; and the Austrian capital itself having become an object of attack. The Ottoman scymitar continued to be victorious, throughout a considerable part of the sixteenth century, when Solyman the Magnificent, to avoid a disputed succession, confined all the young princes to the seclusion of the seraglio, where, associating with slaves and denaturalised men and women, they became imbecile and effeminate, imbibing all the vices that such society was calculated to produce. From this time, the star of Ottoman glory set. In the seventeenth century, the decline of the empire became visible enough, but more so in the following century, whence its decay proceeded rapidly, accelerated, no doubt, by the weakness and ignorance of the barbarous and bigotted

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sultans, who, by a blind adherence to obsolete customs, were no longer able to repel the attacks of disciplined armies. Several of her finest provinces have fallen into the hands of Russia, by whom the Turks have been defeated in almost every battle, and whose dominions, notwithstanding the two Tributary Princes on the Danube, may be said to be conterminous with that river; Cossacks guarding its banks, from the Hungarian frontier to the Black Sea. Greece, too, has been rescued from the iron grasp of Turkey; and Syria, Assyria, and Arabia, seized upon by Ibrahim Pasha, whose standard would have been placed alongside that of the Holy Prophet, in the Imperial Capital, but for the assistance afforded to the Sultan by his greatest enemy, who, jealous of such a rival, marched the Russian troops to within gun-shot of its city gates. The tributary states of Albania and Servia, with the Bosnians and Bulgarians, are vacillating between continued subjection and independence—the effect of disastrous and ineffectual wars. The destruction of the Janissaries, and the ravages of the plague, are severely felt in the reduction of the male population of the empire; while a total mismanagement of the interior, by which vast and fertile regions are converted into deserts, and the loss of commerce occasioned by individual monopolies, added to the obstinate and ignorant conduct of the government in matters connected with foreign policy, have

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reduced this once mighty empire to a dependence upon its weakness and decrepitude, rather than any thing else, for the consideration which it still enjoys in the political world, and afford good reason to presume, that if no extraordinary change should take place, the Ottoman Porte will, in a few years cease to exist. Colonel Evans, in his "Designs of Russia," states "that the military force, in all, is 170,000 men, of which 47,000 are for the defence of Asia, the Capital, and Adrianople; the remainder for the defence of the Balkan, Bulgaria, and the Danube. But this being a paper account, may safely be reduced one half. There are eight or nine millions of Mahometans, and one million of Christians in Asiatic Turkey, a country that two centuries ago, was said to have contained 50,000,000 of people, its area being more than double that of France, and its fecundity superior; while in picturesque beauty and classical interest it almost rivals Italy and Greece."

Thornton says the Turks are "brave and pusillanimous, good and ferocious, firm and weak, active and indolent, passing from austere devotion to disgusting obscenity, from moral severity to gross sensuality; fastidiously delicate, and coarsely voluptuous; seated on a celestial bed, and preying upon garbage; the great are alternately haughty and humble, arrogant and cringing, liberal and sordid; though naturally sedate and placid, their rage when

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once roused is furious and ungovernable, like that of a beast." Towards strangers the Turk is neither courteous nor rude; argument and expostulation are alike thrown away upon him; like his camels, he appears to be the slowest in creation; and like them also, at times, he becomes the most infuriated! Praise his horse, or his white hand,* and you reach his heart. He is very fond of his male offspring; but for the female, he cares but little.† He is devoted to his chibook and harem, both of which he studies to have well furnished.

Thoroughly oriental, the Turks differ in every respect from the inhabitants of western European nations. Instead of a plain, tight dress, they wear loose, gaudy robes; instead of hats, turbans; instead of boots, slippers; instead of sitting upon chairs, they lay stretched upon sofas, or squat cross-legged upon small stools, or ottomans. In writing, like the Hebrews and Arabs, they begin on the right; for quills they substitute reeds, and for writing desks, their knees. Their paper is highly glossed, and the ink thick, like that used in printing.

* The Turks are vain of a white hand.

† In no part of the world, perhaps, are more love and attachment manifested by children towards their mothers than in Turkey.

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On entering a mosque or a house, instead of removing their turbans, they take off their slippers. When bastinadoed, they receive the blows on the soles of the feet, instead of on their backs. On retiring at night, they sleep in their clothes; for knives and forks, fingers are substituted; not contented with one wife, they venture to take four. During the fast of Ramazan, which coincides with the Greek Lent, and continues for 40 days, they fast all day and feast all night. The idea of walking for mere pleasure they cannot comprehend, and consider it an act of insanity. Instead of being seen in public with their wives and daughters, they expect them to be enveloped with all the care of Egyptian mummies; and instead of allowing them to be the delight and ornament of their houses, they imprison them in harems, where they are not to be seen, or even named by the opposite sex. Instead of inviting others to their houses, they steal into them themselves, as if afraid of being seen; and as though it were too much trouble to talk, they hold little or no conversation. Instead of the fermented juice of the grape, they are accustomed to the intoxicating use of opium.* For meals they

* The *Theriaki*, or Opium eaters, are now much less common than they were, however, it having been discovered that Mahomet did not prohibit the use of rum—a favourite article with the Turks. The omission no doubt

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have no fixed time, but act upon the principle of Diogenes—"The rich eat when they like; the poor when they can." The shop-keeper, partaking of the general lethargy, is never found standing in his shop, like the more active and bustling tradesman of western countries, but squats upon his counter, upon a handsome carpet with which it is overspread, wearing only his *mestler*, his exterior slippers being left upon the floor. Being much exposed to cold, in consequence of the bad construction of their houses, in which there are no chimnies, they use braziers lighted with charcoal, which they place under a carpet, drawn over and around their lower extremities. The use of costly furs is a thing in which they much indulge; but the most characteristic feature of dress is the coloured slipper, which was formerly regulated by the government—the Turks wearing yellow, the Armenians red, and the Jews blue. Of the turbans, which also differ in shape and value, some are very splendid, varying in cost from 5*s.* to £200.

The Turks, with our Shenstone, seem to think that "women are pretty dolls; if any thing else unnatural." Every female in the kingdom belongs to the Sultan, who is only supposed to lend them

arose out of the same circumstance as that which occasioned the omission of any prohibition against the sluggish Mussulmans travelling on rail-roads.

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to others, reserving the right of demanding them back again at pleasure. He does not condescend to marry, but chooses from his harem seven favourites. Others can marry four wives, and have as many concubines as their means will justify them in taking, all children being equally legitimate. The women are consigned to harems, excluded from all but female associates or the nearest relations, others not being permitted even to mention their names. They never appear in the streets without veils and loose robes, that mask their face and figure. They are not permitted to join the men in their repasts, nor to enter the mosques; it being believed that they have no souls, and that they were created solely to minister to the pleasures of the opposite sex. As no female is allowed to act as servant, but expects to have slaves of her own, the society of Turkish women is beyond the reach of the poor; a circumstance which produces a host of evils. Those a remove above poverty, though able to support more, find one wife quite sufficient, and thereby avoid the broils to which the rich subject themselves by increasing the number of their wives; for although the eunuch occasionally administers corporeal punishment, he is unable to quiet those freaks of jealousy, which the attentions shown by his master to one above another continually creates. The marriage of a Mussulman convicted of crime is declared to be null. No Turkish woman

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can marry or connect herself with a man out of the faith; and the alternative of death or Islamism awaits any one found with her under suspicious circumstances. The excursions of women out of town are generally made upon asses which they ride like men, or in gaudy gilt waggons, without springs or seats, drawn by oxen. Their greatest opportunities for relaxation are in the baths, which on certain days in the week are appropriated exclusively to their use, and which become the resort of great numbers. Incontinency is of rare occurrence, and when discovered, places both parties at the mercy of the husband, who has been known to sever the head from the body of the one, and to throw the other tied up in a sack into the Bosphorus. When men have been afraid to express publicly their contempt for any measures of government, they have sent their wives in a body to clamour at the gates of the palace, and to express opinions that would have exposed themselves, if not to the bowstring, at least to a sound bastinadoing. The females being unknown, effected their return without discovery, and in this way disturbances have been originated that have agitated the whole empire.

A Turk about to be married knows nothing of the figure, intellect, or accomplishments of his future wife, except what he learns from her parents, or some aged matron, whom he may have employed to examine and report thereupon. When the parents

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have agreed and fixed the sum the husband is to settle upon the wife, they make an inventory of all that belongs to her, which is returned, in case of divorce or repudiation. Preliminaries being settled, the future husband, the father, the next nearest relative of the lady, and two witnesses, go before a cadi to sign the articles of contract, and obtain a permission in writing. The celebration of the nuptials can only take place on a Thursday night, which precedes their *sabbath*.

A day or two before this, the lady is taken to a bath; and on the wedding-night, she is dressed in the richest stuffs that can be procured, covered with jewellery, pearls, and pieces of money—which the parents often hire. They also try to beautify the face, by colouring it red, blue, and white, painting the eye-brows black, and staining the finger-nails red. Thus adjusted, and placed upon an elevated seat, under a canopy—the bride composes herself, keeping her eyes firmly fixed upon the floor; whilst a troop of women, invited to the fête, abandon themselves up to amusements of a ludicrous and disgusting nature, executing divers dances, and playing upon instruments. At night, the parents, husband, and women, proceed with torches and music to the house of the bride, to conduct her to that of the husband. She sets out with her parents and more immediate friends, the men remaining at her house and regaling them-

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selves. Arrived at the harem, the attendants perfume and place the bride upon an elevated seat, prepared for the purpose, and all strangers retire, leaving only the relations of both parties. The husband is all this time in another apartment, being perfumed and dressed in the most expensive apparel his station affords, by the young men of his acquaintance, who sing songs adapted to the occasion. This done, all the men, accompanied by music, go to the mosque, from whence they return to the door of the house of the bridegroom, leaving him to enter only with his parents.

Whilst they are at the mosque, the lady is conducted into her destined place of incarceration, and upon the bridegroom being introduced, all retire except an old woman, who serves him with supper. Whilst he partakes of this, the bride remains standing before him in an humble posture; and after supper, she presents her lord and master with a dish, water, and linen, and then sits down. When she has handed him a pipe and coffee, she sups herself. The servant now retires, and the newly-married pair remain alone. On the following day, the female friends return more richly dressed than before to congratulate the bride and bridegroom, and to spend the day in amusements. The husband is expected to appear very modest and silent; lounging upon an ottoman, his eyes cast down,

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his face melancholy, whilst all besides are transported with joy.

Amongst the slaves resident in the palaces of the Sultan, there is an order consisting of whites as well as blacks, known under the appellation of eunuchs —the employment of whom may be termed a vice of the Byzantine court, since it is in total defiance of the laws of the Koran. In the Grand Seraglio, there are at least fifty of these who have the superior advantage of being deaf and dumb—or, at least, of being thought to be so. The black and most deformed guard the interior, while the rest have charge of the passages and the exterior apartments. There are no secret visits or conferences held in the harem or seraglio, slaves being always present. Even when the Grand Turk is there reclining upon his couch, he requires incessant attendance, for the purpose of being supplied with his hookah, sherbet, and coffee, and it becomes necessary that he should have those before whom he can speak without reserve, i. e. the deaf and dumb; and many, to attain to this high dignity, feign to be deprived of the two faculties of hearing and speaking. Some of them rise to great importance; as the Kislar Aga, guardian of the young princes of the blood, who is one of the leading personages in the empire, and even of the church. To a deaf and dumb dwarf the highest value is attached.

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Eunuchs are also found in the private houses and harems of wealthy Turks.

A Turk having the most implicit confidence in the bounty of Providence, is desirous of repose, but dislikes purchasing it with fatigue. He enjoys the present, without thinking of the future, and holds in great contempt all idea of those pressing ills with which mankind are menaced. His amusements are chiefly domestic; he delights in the *dolce far niente*, in giving himself up to continued and unvaried reverie, and unrestrained debauchery. His sole desire seems to be to glide down the stream of time without thought or anxiety. He is indifferently fond of loitering under a tree, of reclining with his favourite ladies in his caiques upon the placid waters, or upon an ottoman, smoking his Chibook or narghilê,* and drinking sherbet, lemonade, or coffee, without sugar or milk, out of cups little larger than thimbles, during the whole day.

All coffee-houses are fitted up with cushions around the walls, and refreshed by little fountains in the centre.

On mounting the ottoman, it is an invariable custom to leave the slippers on the floor.

Notwithstanding his indolence, however, the Turk is a being of strong animal impulse, and when

Chibook, a long pipe. Narghilé, a water-pipe or hookah.

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prompted by passion, he is as extreme in his activity, as he is at other times in his repose. When pressed by necessity or favoured by circumstances, he will accomplish prodigies; but his powers of endurance are not great. In war, his first onset is that of the tiger, but missing his aim, he creeps back to his jungle.

There being no theatre or public place of resort in Constantinople, the streets, by an early hour of the night, are hushed and quiet, and, for want of lamps, in total darkness. An individual may occasionally be seen in Pera, with a paper lantern in his hand; those found without being entitled to a lodging in the guard-house. In Stamboul, it is forbidden to stir out after dark, except on urgent occasions, when permission must be obtained of the officer on duty at the nearest station, who furnishes the pass-word. Early or late, however, strangers have nothing disagreeable to apprehend in any part of the city.

The religion of the Turks is identified with oriental civilization. Mahomet, impressed with the necessity of suppressing the idolatry which then almost universally prevailed, but feeling also that any attempt to achieve such an object would have to encounter the most formidable difficulties, arising out of the generally and almost uncontrollable tendencies to materialism, every where in operation, struck out a course for himself, in which, while he

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conceded much to the fondly-cherished notions of the time, he struck a mortal blow at the heart of that atheistical and demoralizing system which held such an extensive dominion over the human mind. The frequent lapses of the Jews into their besetting sin of idolatry, and the heresies which divided the Christians into various and hostile sects, warring with each other, and all of them with their common enemy who still clung to Moses and the prophets, and asserted the perpetuity of the ritual of the Levitical law, invited him to undertake the functions of a mediator, and to arbitrate between these contending factions. For this purpose he armed himself with the authority deferred to by all, and wielded it with a power which finds no parallel except in the introduction of the Mosaic and Christian ceremonies. Putting forward the Jewish prophets on the one hand, and Christ on the other, he propounded to the benighted world the sublime doctrine so long overladen by superstition and ignorance—the existence of one God, as the invisible creator of the universe, and the all-wise and benevolent superintendant of its affairs. This laid the basis for his work of reconciliation. "Each nation has its apostle," says the Koran, "and Mahomet is the apostle of Arabia." "Be judges," says the same book, "say to the Jews and Christians, let us terminate our differences; adore but one God,

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give him no equal, that none among you may have any other God but him. Abraham was neither Jew nor Christian; he was an orthodox Mussulman and an adorer of one God, and only one." Napoleon justly remarked, that had Mahomet spoken only of spirit he would not have been understood. This he himself foresaw, and therefore that he might succeed in divesting the oriental world of some portion of its accumulated vices, and elevate the character of an abased people, he eschewed all mystical subtleties, and addressed himself more immediately to the senses of those whom he undertook to reclaim. Whilst he prohibited those things that were either vicious in themselves, or had a tendency to promote vice, under the peculiar circumstances in which the eastern people were then placed—such as dice, sporting, music, divination, jewellery, and wine, he enforced his obligations by the most tempting promises of material enjoyments hereafter. To the poor Arabs, scorched by a burning climate, and inhabiting a country destitute of shade and water, he promised rich and extensive pasturage, watered by delicious rivers—that they should inhabit the garden of delight, reposing upon beds enriched with gold and precious stones, living in perfect harmony and being waited upon by eternal youth—that they should banquet upon the most delicious fruits and the flesh of the choicest birds—that they should

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enjoy the society of the Houris, with eyes

> " Dark as above us is the sky ;
> All love, half languor, and half fire ;"

and the transparent whiteness of whose complexions is only to be equalled by pearls. By such menaces and promises as these did Mahomet attack idolatry in its strong-hold, and with the overthrow of this, the destruction of children, and prostitution and polygamy, though not wholly suppressed, were considerably diminished ; while the condition of women was largely ameliorated,—sisters were entitled to inherit conjointly with brothers, and a slave, upon becoming a mother, was declared free. Mohammedanism, in fact, rendered those who were brought under its influence, as far in advance of other eastern people, as they are now in arrear of the more civilized nations.

Imbued from their infancy with a lofty conception of their own spiritual condition, the Turks regard every other form of religion than Islamism with mingled feelings of hatred and contempt. As followers of Omar, the successor of Mahomet, they hold that the Persians are doomed to perdition, for adhering to Ali, the son-in-law of the prophet, who was at the head of the great Mohammedan schism—a circumstance which has materially tended to strengthen and sharpen the political enmity that has ever existed between the two empires. The

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propagation of the Koran is a fundamental principle of Islamism, the destroyer of the infidel having ensured to him a place in paradise. "The neck that bends," however, is preserved from violence.

The Koran, which comprises the civil as well as the religious code, is administered by the ministers of religion. Stated prayers form a very leading feature of the Mohammedan theology, and whenever these are omitted, in consequence of the pressure of imperious duties, the faithful must make up for the deficiency at the first opportunity he can command.

Prayer carries a Turk half-way to paradise, and fasting the remaining distance; but it is charity that gains him admittance to the society of the Houris. Some writer remarks, that the brightest redeeming virtue in a Turk is charity, or the giving of alms; and next, his love of cleanliness. The latter may be demurred to, probably, as inconsistent with the habit of sleeping in his ordinary apparel, and wearing it for years. At the same time, it should be remarked, that the Turks undergo many ablutions. They wash their hands at least five times in the course of the day, and the feet twice. They use the bath several times a week, but more particularly on the night preceding and on the morning of their sabbath. Nothing offends them more than the commission of those indelicacies which are sometimes uselessly prohibited by a "Commit no nuisance here," in most other

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capitals; and trespassers in this respect incur a risk of being soundly bastinadoed by any casual passer by.

The knowledge of the Turks is exceedingly limited. Until the time when the present Sultan succeeded to the throne, education, if not totally neglected, was chiefly confined to the Koran and the Arabic language, a course which limited their knowledge within a very narrow compass, ill adapted to the expansion of the human mind, or the duties of active life. They are not altogether ignorant of mathematics or navigation, for which they are indebted to Baron du Tott, who, in 1773, established an adult school in the arsenal, for teaching these branches of science. Of natural history, physics, geography, and botany, they may also be said to know nothing. The most useful science introduced within the last few years, is that of medicine, which, though very imperfect, and but little understood at the present time, will ultimately supersede the use of the nostrums hitherto transmitted from father to son, and destroy the delusion, that European practitioners are endowed with a power of necromancy. It has been frequently remarked by travellers, that cripples are rarely seen in Turkey, even after sanguinary engagements, the inference being, that the wounded are lost for want of surgical aid.

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The printing of Military Tactics, by Sultan Selim, in 1807, created so much alarm amongst the scribes, who lived by copying, that a fetwa, or decree of the mufti, was obliged to be had recourse to, authorizing the printing of every thing but the Koran—a useless measure, that being the only book the Turks ever read.

On ascending the throne, Sultan Mahmood published at the press established by his predecessor, a work entitled "The Basis of Victory," pointing out existing defects in the political and social condition of the Turks, and showing the necessity of reforms; but as a general dislike existed to printed books, it was little read and less understood. From 1811 to 1819, the Turks were dependent upon the Armenians of the St. Lazarus convent at Venice for an account of the political, literary, and scientific transactions of Europe, which was published in a newspaper in the Armenian language, and forwarded twice a month to Constantinople. An unwarrantable massacre of some of the chief families of this persuasion, in the capital, however, caused its discontinuance. About five years since, the Sultan established a weekly Gazette, in the Turkish, Greek, French, and Armenian languages, to which the rich subscribe *per force*.

Like the French language in Europe, the Turkish prevails over the greater part of Asia and the

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north coast of Africa. Being a Tartaric dialect, it is rude, abrupt, and poor; but the Turks have much enriched it by the introduction of Persian and Arabic; although the mixture of three such dissimilar languages renders the acquisition of it extremely difficult. They have one alphabet for public business, another for letter-writing, a third for law, and a fourth for instruction; and it often happens that those who are perfect in one, know nothing of the others. It has been justly remarked, that the Arabian language *persuades*, the Persian *flatters*, and the Turkish *menaces*.

Turkish law is simple and summary. Civil matters are decided by the Ouelmas, who have the case laid before them upon a sheet of paper, space being left at the bottom for their fiat. Two or three witnesses are examined, and a decision given *instanter*.

The contempt in which all who are of a different faith are held, almost excludes such persons from becoming witnesses, and the oaths of a dozen Christians are less regarded than the single affirmation of a Mussulman, though he may be known to commit the most flagrant acts of perjury; indeed, there was formerly a class of men who made this a profession! Public offences are submitted to the Pashas, whose decisions depend upon their caprice, and who will sometimes, in a fit of anger, order a person charged with a mere trifling offence, to be bastinadoed, or hanged, while at another time,

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a culprit who has perpetrated some atrocious crime, is ordered to be discharged. From their sentence there was formerly no appeal; and none daring to impugn the decision, the matter ended with the sentence and execution. It is a lamentable fact, that in most cases, money was sure to obtain a judgment favourable to the parties who availed themselves of its use. But it may, perhaps, be to this uncertainty of the law, and of what may result from petty or trivial offences, that public crimes exist to a less extent in this than in any other capital.

The Sultan in full council, (and much to his honour) abrogated the power of the Pashas to inflict capital punishment, which now can only take place on a judicial sentence being obtained and signed by a Cadi; which also allows time for appeal. Their power of administering corporeal punishments, however, still exists, and a Pasha who lately passed through Venice, on his way as ambassador to Vienna, boasted that they had, upon the abridgment of their power, transferred the bastinado from the feet to the stomach, so that half the blows formerly inflicted will be sufficient to effect all that the greatest monster can desire.

All Europeans charged with offences, are, or ought to be, handed over to the ambassadors, to be treated according to the laws of their respective countries, and a departure from this, in the late

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case of Mr. Churchill, a resident merchant of great respectability, at Constantinople, was followed up with great spirit by Lord Ponsonby. Mr. Churchill, it appears, being invited by a friend to make an excursion into Asia, took his gun with a view of killing wild ducks. Being short-sighted, he missed his bird, and a spent shot penetrated the thigh of a boy on the opposite side of the water. The enraged people seized and maltreated him, and then conveyed him before the Reis Effendi, who, instead of conforming to the custom of referring the case to the embassy, ordered incarceration and punishment. Lord Ponsonby demanded satisfaction, and refused ever again to communicate with a man who had so wantonly set at defiance the laws of nations.

The affair was for some time on the *tapis*, and was at length satisfactorily arranged, by the Reis Effendi being discharged, and a pecuniary remuneration being made to the merchant.

There were formerly three offices to which Greeks might aspire, viz. to those of Hospodar of Wallachia, Prince of Moldavia, and Dragoman or Interpreter; all of whom had the distinguished honour of wearing yellow slippers. But since the Greek Revolution, the latter post has been filled by one of the faithful, and the Sultan has no longer the appointment of the two former.

What a French author says of his own country, is perhaps more applicable to Turkey :—" Fame is a

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pinnacle of so dangerous a height, that none but eagles and reptiles ever reach its top." Thus, have most important posts been filled by men of the very lowest grade. Porters have risen to be Pashas. Even so recently as the Battle of Navarino, one of the Admirals, named Achmet Papooshi, was a vender of slippers, as his name implies. Nothing can exceed the desire of taking office, whether to stand in the "deadly breach" or elsewhere; nor can any thing go beyond the hatred which those employed feel towards each other. No means are deemed too base to be employed for one another's destruction. A Turk rarely hesitates to become the executioner of the friends of his boyhood. But this may be said more in reference to the past than the present, the Sultan being less open to intrigues, and (though sometimes imposed upon) endeavouring to fill up appointments by suitable persons, and rewarding with honours and medals those whom he considers to be worthy. The first mark of distinction is a standard of one horse tail, then of two, and finally ending with a Pasha of three tails,* of whom there are about fifty in the empire.

* The Egyptian bulls have very large tails, which they use as standards.

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III. MAHMOOD AND HIS REFORMS.

THE Sultan Mahmood is the son of Abdul Hamid, and the only survivor of a very numerous family of brothers and sisters. As vicar and successor of the great prophet, he unites in himself all the supreme, executive, and legislative powers. He is pontiff, and supreme chief of religion; and as sole owner and proprietor of the lives and property of all his subjects, he can confiscate the one and put out of existence the other, with impunity, so that the number of his victims do not exceed fourteen in any one day; although it is not until they extend to a thousand, that the people have any right to entertain the notion of deposing him.*

Mahmood was born on the 20th of July, 1785, and ascended the throne on the 28th of July, 1808. He is a fine, strong, robust looking personage, about the middle stature, particularly wide across

* Turkey is the Sultan's life estate; the people and property constituting his live and dead stock; and the traveller will not fail to remark the gradual depreciation in the value of human life, which takes place in the course of the Danube, until at Constantinople, it is found to be at a discount. A dog enjoys almost an equality of rights with a man, the death of one causing no more regret than that of the other. In Egypt, the Viceroy would rather the death of fifty subjects, than be deprived for a single day of his chibook!

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the shoulders and chest, of a dark swarthy complexion, with a long black beard (worn by him as head of the church) and mustachios. His deportment is haughty and ferocious. He is said to have had the advantage of his cousin Selim's instruction, whilst the deposed Sultan was confined with him in the seraglio, by order of Mustapha, who had been raised to the throne by a revolution caused by Selim's attempt to reform the institutions of his countrymen, and which, during fifteen months kept the city in a state of anarchy.

On the 15th of July, 1808, Pasha Alexander Mustapha, called the *Bairacter*, returned with the army that had been sent against Russia, and put an end to the revolt. Mustapha having created him Grand Vizier, he, on the same day, changed the ministers, and punished some of the insurrectionary chiefs; and on the following day, he suggested to the usurper the propriety of restoring the sovereignty to its rightful possessor. Instead of yielding to this dictate of policy no less than of justice, however, Mustapha gave immediate orders for the strangulation of both his brother Mahmood, and his cousin Selim, while he took immediate measures to defend himself by force of arms. The vizier was as prompt in his movements, but on entering the palace, he found his old friend and benefactor, Selim, deprived of life, and only arrived just in time to save Mahmood, who was then, at the age

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of twenty-three, placed upon the throne. His first act was to protect his brother Mustapha against the resentment of the vizier, who had resolved to consign him, with the rest of the conspiring chiefs, to the axe.

Confirmed by Mahmood in his viziership, the Bairacter soon re-adjusted the affairs of the empire, and amongst other reforms then effected, were the disbanding of the old troops, and the raising of a new order of soldiers, bearing the same name as those employed in Roumelia and the rest of European Turkey—viz. *Saymen*. The barracks, in which the old troops had refused to reside, were again opened, a new military dress introduced, and the European tactics adopted. Disobedience to the new military orders was to be punished by death.

These and the various other reforms introduced, gave rise to another bloody revolution, in which the Janissaries took the lead. Armed in great numbers, they proceeded in the night to the palace of the vizier, which being set fire to, he made his stand in the tower of his harem. Here he for some time gallantly defended himself, but was ultimately killed, by the springing of a mine, by his own hand; 1300 of the insurgents being also destroyed. On the following day, the body of the vizier was found, and drawn through the streets in triumph. Mahmood found that decisive measures were required to suppress the insurrection, and

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having discovered that his brother Mustapha was in correspondence with the malcontents, he gave orders to have him strangled, but induced the people to believe that he had been frightened to death. Elated with their success, however, the insurgents demanded the heads of the five ministers,* an act of temerity which recoiled upon themselves. The Sultan firmly refused their demand, and threat-

* Cadi Pasha lost his head within a few months, and the other four were, in less than twelve months, consigned to the tomb by their capricious sovereign. Hallet Effendi being naturally obnoxious to the Janissaries, they petitioned the Sultan against him; but their hostility would in all probability have been ineffectual, had not the memorial stated that the people believed his Majesty could not govern without him. In one of his secret rambles, the Sultan having heard the same thing, he named the circumstance to his minister, who immediately begged permission to retire into Asia Minor. The Sultan assented, and made promises as to his future provision, giving him, at the same time, under his own hand, a letter guaranteeing his safety. The ex-minister departed, attended by a considerable escort, but on arriving at Bolabashi, in Bithynia, he was horrified, though not much surprised, to find that the Pasha of the district, a friend of his own, had received orders to send his head back to the capital. The order was executed, and the iron-hearted chief had the head of his former friend and minister exhibited in front of his seraglio.—If reproached with breaking his promise, Mahmood would probably reply, with the Emperor of Morocco, "Do you think I am an infidel, and obliged to keep my word?"

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ened that if order was not immediately restored, he would take his wives that were *enceinte*, together with the holy standard of the prophet, and leave the city,—two calamities which were sufficient to blast all their hopes for time and eternity. The menace was successful, order was restored, and the Sultan disposed of the refractory chiefs as opportunity offered. This severity, however, operated differently to what he had anticipated, and for the purpose of quelling a disturbance to which it gave rise, he resorted to the desperate sacrifice of his only son.† Mahmood thus becoming the last of his race, could defy the menaces of the malcontents, and hold the infuriated in check.* Havin thus obtained a sort of charmed life, which no one dare peril, he determined, *coute qui coute*, upon the bold and decisive stroke that was to break the fetters in which he had previously been held, and give a new aspect to Mussulman policy. He seemed like Laocoon struggling in the hideous coils of the monster Python; and his vengeance was to become

† Mahomet III. is said to have destroyed his nineteen brothers and sisters, and all the concubines that his father left *enceinte*, determined to remain the last of his family. In consequence of the barbarous custom of destroying, as soon as born, all the male children of a sister or cousin of the reigning Sultan, who may have married with a subject, the Ottoman dynasty has many times been in danger of extinction.

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terrible. Assisted by the councils of the Machiavelian Hallet Effendi, whose political knowledge had been acquired in the Napoleon school, whilst ambassador at the French court, he employed, throughout a period of eighteen years, a variety of means to effectuate his object, many of them being unfortunately characterized by great perfidy and cruelty.

In 1820, the Greek revolution broke out, and every Turk was required to take up arms. The lower class of Janissaries, who had previously been disbanded, were thus replaced in a position to indulge their cruelty and love of plunder; and not only innocent and unoffending Greeks, but Armenians, and even Turkish nobles, became the victims of their ungovernable ferocity. Every order to lay down their arms being set at defiance, the Sultan resolved, at all hazards to suppress them, and em-

* It is a remarkable fact, that notwithstanding the people have so often changed their sovereign, they never thought of raising a private individual to the throne. Even Mehemet Ali, who is *de facto* a king, and in every respect deports himself as such, does not venture to render himself obnoxious to Mahometan prejudices by seeking to be recognized by the European powers. On the contrary, though he has seized upon the Sultan's possessions, and sets him otherwise at defiance, he, two years since, sent him his splendid steam-frigate, the *Nile*, (the finest vessel ever built in England,) with a valuable tribute to Constantinople.

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body a new order of troops, upon the European model, who should wear uniforms, reside in the barracks, be daily exercised, and conform in all respects to military discipline. The *Ousda*, or chiefs, first murmured, and then mutinied. On the 14th of June, 1826, they proceeded in the night to the palaces of the grand vizier and the other ministers, and forced the harems. They had determined, it seems, upon the destruction of the Turkish chiefs, as well as upon committing all sorts of excesses upon the women, plundering the houses in the city, and finally setting fire to it.

Alarmed at their danger, the ministers flew to the palace of the Sultan, at Beshicktash, and Mahmood, after but a moment's deliberation, returned with them to the city, and ordered out the artillery and marines, two bodies of men whom he had been forming with great care, for several years, and upon whose fidelity he could rely.

The Janissaries, instead of banners, had large copper-boilers, called *Kazan*, which were to them what the eagles were to the Romans. These they sent from one barracks to another, as tokens of friendship, while their heralds were heard in the different streets, inviting all who bore the name of Janissary, to proceed without delay, under the Kazan, to *Atmeidan*.* Mahmood proved himself

* A meat-market.

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to be equal to the exigency of the crisis. As vicar of the great prophet, he issued orders in his name, and as "the Shadow of God," decreed that all within the pale of the faith should follow him to *Atmeidan*—those failing to comply being pronounced accursed, and their marriages annulled. Sword in hand, he proceeded with Hussein Pasha, against the heroes of the Kazan, and the discontented amongst the people, seeing the Holy Standard, which is only taken out on the extraordinary occasion of the Sultan going to war, thinking that to be killed fighting not under but against the sacred banner, fled in dismay. Almost every avenue, however, was blocked up with artillery, the first discharge of which, directed by Mahmood himself, made frightful havoc; while the wooden barracks, into which the chiefs had retired, taking fire, became the scene of indescribable horror. Those attempting to escape, were either cut down or forced back into the flames. On this memorable day, the 15th of June 1826, nearly the whole body of Janissaries were swept out of existence, and the very name rendered an object of execration. During the following night, agents, who had been introduced for the purpose into the gardens of the Grand Seraglio, consigned to the bow-string or axe, all of the order who had been employed about the palace, and this occasioning some discontent amongst the dowager sultanas, measures were immediately taken to silence all murmurs.

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Many a fair sultana was sewn up in the fatal sack, and let down a pipe or spout into

> "The rolling waves, which hide
> Already many a once love-beaten breast,
> Deep in the caverns of the deadly tide."

The number thus disposed of will ever remain a secret, as all concerned in such affairs are deaf and dumb slaves. For a whole year, search was made both far and wide to discover any of the Janissaries who might have escaped; and when found, they were dispatched in the readiest manner.

The total number destroyed, from first to last, was estimated at 35,000.—

> "Though vengeance came with leaden heels,
> It struck with iron hand."

The destruction of the Janissaries was immediately succeeded by the raising of a new order of soldiers, called *Mansury Mahmoodie*, or new soldiers of Mahmood. They were exercised in military tactics by French officers, had an Italian band, and were dressed *à l'Europeenne*, except that they wore a red cap, called *Fess*. Prior to this period, discipline was so little observed or understood by Turkish troops, that one writer compared them in the field to a quantity of coins flung carelessly upon a table, —a simile not unwarranted by the ungovernable conduct of the Janissaries, who were totally without

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discipline, and who acted or not as their caprice led them.

The Sultan's determination to enforce obedience to his new orders, encountered some opposition in various parts of the empire, and particularly in the tributary provinces. Much, in fact, still remains to be done, before they will resemble the troops of European states, for though the cavalry made a tolerably good figure on occasion of a recent fête, the Sultan's escort exhibited a most ludicrous appearance. Some were tall, others short; some were stout, others thin; and all rode pell-mell, without the least order, and apparently inconvenienced by their dresses, which being badly made, ill concealed their clumsy figures. Part of them had their trousers up to the knees, their legs denuded of stockings; whilst a majority of them had reduced their shoes to the degradation of slippers. That Turkish soldiers should ever have appeared in the eye of the world larger and stronger than those of other countries, could only have arisen from their dress and ferocity. Without discipline, their onset in battle was terrific, and this made them a formidable enemy to encounter. Stript of their gaudy trappings, however, they are short, thickset, and ugly. Those about the capital are mere boys, the more experienced being sent to the frontiers. At the same time, it is only doing them justice to say, that although they were nearly all new recruits, or

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tacticoes, at the time of being embodied, after the affair of the Janissaries, when sent to defend Shumla against the Russian army under Diebitsch, in 1829, they did so with a bravery which forced him to retire. Last year, the *Artillery*, in a trial made of their efficiency are said to have charged a cannon five times in one minute. The exercise of their religion, which requires them to kneel five times a day towards the east or tomb of the prophet, as well as frequently to kiss the earth, prevents the troops from wearing the leather peak in front of their caps, as a protection for the eyes. Any projection there would require the cap to be taken off, contrary to custom, Turks never being uncovered, either in the mosque or in the presence of the Sultan himself.

Since the barbarous custom of making reprisals on the ears,* and of gratifying revenge by slitting the noses of their prisoners have been interdicted, there has been some difficulty experienced in obtaining recruits; notwithstanding that the disgraceful practice of striking soldiers and sailors while on duty is also suppressed. Formerly this brutal custom was so common, that if the brains of a soldier or sailor were knocked out for disobedience, no one troubled himself about the affair.

* In 1825, Mehemet Ali, when in the Morea, sent the Sultan a present of 700 pair of ears, which were exhibited for three days in front of the seraglio.

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Elated with his success in the destruction of the Janissaries, Mahmood at once resolved to strike a blow at another Oslamin excrescence, and with that view ordered the Mufti and Ouelmas to lay aside their clerical turbans, and substitute the ordinary red skull-cap; at the same time making a law for the hereditary descent of property. These things, especially the former of them, may appear to be of little consequence; but their object being to amalgamate this proud and powerful class with the general mass of the people, they were of the utmost importance, and would have hurled any of Mahmood's predecessors from the throne.

From this period, the Sultan appears to have entered upon a new career; drilling his recruits, and being drilled himself, he underwent more fatigue in six months than he had been subjected to throughout the whole of his former life. He persevered amidst all the difficulties he had to encounter, until he could ride upon an English saddle, and put a regiment through its evolutions, as well as a European field-marshal could do it. Cruelties became less frequent, and the value of human life increased.

Mahmood, however, was still the slave of obstinacy and prejudice, in whatever concerned his sovereign power. He knew that the allied powers had determined upon the emancipation of Greece, and that he had no more might to resist that pur-

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pose with success than he had to change the current of the Hellespont. Yet he could not be prevailed upon to yield until all his fortresses upon the Danube had been taken, and his fleet in the Mediterranean completely destroyed. Mehemet Ali asked for the pashalic of Acre, and though destitute of all means for opposing his wishes, the Sultan refused the boon, and Mehemet commenced a war which put him in possession of all Syria. These untoward circumstances, added to his blindly confiding the government of distant provinces to his own creatures, who ruined all who came within the radius of their authority, and the maintenance of government and other monopolies of almost every article in demand, induce a pretty general belief that Mahmood's changes arise more out of a mere restless desire to be doing something, than from any profound conviction of their necessity; and that they will sink into insignificance when compared with the deep and permanent evils which his caprice has inflicted upon the empire.

But, after all, it is not to be forgotten that Mahmood is still a Turk; he has been brought up in all the dogmas of Moslemism, and this being considered, we cannot but be surprised at the strength of mind and resoluteness of purpose he has displayed in carrying into effect reforms and founding measures and institutions so opposed to Mahommedan prejudices, and so at variance with the laws of the

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Koran, as he has done. Many of his measures deserve to survive him; and should they do so, they will form a noble monument to his memory, although the circumstance of his having resorted to private assassination, shedding innocent blood for the mere sake of possessing himself of property,* and violating all the laws of honour, hospitality, and friendship, by coolly consigning the friend of many years to destruction, remain as indelible blots upon his

* SHAPDJI, a Jew, famous for his charity and riches, being confined to his bed, was one day astonished by two men peremptorily demanding to see him at the door of his house. He sent down to inform them of his indisposition, but they replied that they came from the Sultan to speak with him, and that he must consequently descend. Assisted by his brother, the unfortunate man reached the door, at the threshold of which he was instantly strangled. The royal seal was then put upon his house, and his wealth secured. Thus, poor Shapdji was violently hurried out of existence, because he was guilty of the great crime—a greater cannot exist in Turkey—of *being rich*;—while, in more civilized countries, where economy is a reproach and retrenchment a crime, the possession of wealth would have sufficed to atone for the absence of every other virtue. —"They say that knowledge is power," observes Byron; "I used to think so, but I now know that they meant Money; and when Socrates declared that all he knew, was that he knew nothing, he merely intended to declare that he had not a drachma in the Athenian world. Every guinea is a philosopher's stone, or at least his touchstone. You will doubt me the less when I pronounce my firm belief that Cash is virtue."

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escutcheon, and deprive him of all pretensions to the character of a great man.

As a father, Mahmood evinces the utmost solicitude for his children. Two of his daughters are married to Pashas, whose male issue are no longer to be put out of existence, nor are the princesses themselves to be forced out of the city, as was formerly the custom. His two sons, Sultan Abdul Medjid Effendi, and Sultan Abdul Aziz Effendi, the one in his twelfth year, the other a year younger, have the advantage of more athletic exercises, and of more intercourse with others, than have hitherto been permitted to princes of the blood. They are no longer confined to the seraglio, although Mahmood knows that as they advance in years, the tenure of his own life becomes more precarious.

These and various other innovations upon long established usages, have tended much to ameliorate the condition of the people, and to assimilate their customs and institutions to those of the more civilized nations of the earth.

At the commencement of hostilities with the Russians, in 1828, a body of his new cavalry having surprised and taken an advanced post, of about 400 men, cut off their ears, and sent them as trophies to the capital. The Sultan, instead of exhibiting the satisfaction usually evinced on such occasions, reprobated the custom, in terms of severity, insisted upon its disuse, and gave orders that in future no

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prisoners should be maltreated, but that all should be conducted in safety to Constantinople. This was a bold, as well as an enlightened and humane step; it went to the very root of Moslem prejudice, since Mahomet had declared the captive of the sword to be the property of the captor.

Formerly, Christian subjects—by which are meant Armenians and Greeks—if ever seen at the departure of Turkish soldiers to the camp, were deemed to be ominous of evil, and if on horseback, they were obliged to dismount, and stand aside until the green banner had passed, none daring, at the peril of their lives, to be seen on the spot, when the banner of the Great Prophet was unfurled; nor were they permitted to look up at the Sultan. Now they are not only permitted, but invited to be present upon such occasions: they may look at the Oslamin chief with impunity; and, in his absence, even set their "infidel" feet in his sacred tent. None dare offer them the slightest insult, without incurring the severest chastisement.

All religions are now tolerated, and three years since, the Armenians obtained a piece of ground for the building of a church, which has been erected at an expense of £36,000.

Architecture has received great encouragement, and the barracks which are generally beyond the limits of the city, might be taken as models for more refined countries. The arsenal, the royal

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mosque, and several of the palaces—one of stone, and quite European in its style—have all been erected by the present Sultan.

Extensive manufactories of guns, caps, leather, cloth, cannon, silk, &c. conducted principally by foreigners, have sprung up within the last five years; but they are all government monopolies. Carriages were never patronised by the successors of the prophet, before his present representative ascended the throne. About two years since, Mahmood introduced a small English phaeton, in which he drives four horses remarkably well. Roads, however, are still much wanted, although this is a matter that has not escaped the Sultan's attention. He has made a new one from *Scutari* to *Isnikmid*, a distance of about sixty miles, upon which are established post-houses and other conveniences.

The use of knives and forks is becoming general; and, what is unheard of in the annals of Turkey, ambassadors and Christian chiefs are invited to dine at the palace, where the Sultan, although he does not condescend to eat with them, freely converses,* and partakes of the champagne, which his conscience-keepers are said to have discovered to possess none of the elements that constitute the repro-

* Mahomet II. said "My illustrious predecessors were in the habit of dining with the viziers—"*I abolish the custom.*"

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bated beverage, but to rank more properly under the order of sherbet or lemonade, than of wine.

Orders and medals reward merit, a quality which now more generally raises men to fill important posts, than the gross intrigues that formerly led to their selection.

The power of Pashas, which formerly extended over the lives of all under their dominion, has become more limited. Sentence of death must be signed by the proper authorities, and sufficient time be allowed for appeal.

Formerly, all property belonging to persons employed by the government reverted to the Porte at their death, and the possession by such persons of any amount of wealth, was held to be sufficient justification of sacrificing their lives, to increase the public funds. Mahmood, much to his honour, waived this privilege, and in full divan, where he generally presides, made a law for the hereditary descent and secure possession of property.

Notwithstanding that all pictures, representing the human form, or any living creature, as well as music, are forbidden in the Koran, a triumph over these two obstacles to civilization has been effected. The young princes have been painted in miniature, by an Italian artist, and the Sultan's portrait has been painted in oil, and placed in the arsenal. It is also lithographed, and sold in the city, and is the only thing of the kind to be seen.

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The "concord of sweet sounds," too, is now often heard,

> "Coming o'er the ear like the sweet south,
> That breathes upon a bank of violets,
> Stealing and giving odour."

It was formerly the custom, when any great personage received a visit, to have presented to him a pipe and coffee, by four kneeling slaves, who also perfumed his beard; but this practice having been denounced at court, has almost wholly fallen into disuse.

Harems are no longer state prisons; the fair inmates are allowed to walk out at pleasure, and to adorn themselves with jewellery. On the marriage of the Sultan's daughter with Ali Pasha, Mahmood pledged himself that the male issue should no longer be destroyed, and that the princess should not be forced to leave the capital after three years, as had previously been the barbarous custom.

The mosques are ordered to be shewn to strangers, when not occupied for prayer.

The press, though it at present gives but a feeble light, has begun to shed its benign influence around; and a weekly gazette, in four languages, awakens the curiosity of the people.

Some time since, the Sultan announced his intention of establishing steam-boats between the different parts of his dominions, and of visiting the

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several places himself, in the course of this summer. The announcement spread dismay amongst the sticklers for old customs. The shadow of God leave the city and its environs! Verily, the end draweth nigh!

IV. RELIGIOUS CLASSES.

The Mufti.—Ouelmas.—Dervishes.

THE *Mufti*, as head of the Church, is the second personage in the empire, and to him all questions of importance are referred, a power being invested in him, as a counterpoise to the arbitary will of the Sultan. As the Mufti is removeable at pleasure, however, almost any *fetwa*, or decision, is sure to be obtained. Instances of opposition on his part are rare, and those that have occurred, have been visited as might be expected. Munrad IV. not having the power to behead a disobedient Mufti, resorted to the expedient of having him pounded in a mortar—a mode of evading the statute, which though not considered strictly orthodox, was never called in question. Mahmood determined that this grand funtionary should no longer appear as a *Matador*, but, on the contrary, that himself and his order, which included the proud Ouelmas, who are the only aristocracy, and who boast of being the only nobility of Turkey, should be "shuffled among the pack." With this view, he demanded a

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fetwa for changing their exterior insignia. One Mufti refused, and was deposed; another complied, and the change was effected.

The *Ouelmas* are a religious body, under the Mufti, who administered law and religion, and holding, besides, some of the most lucrative and influential offices in the empire, have not only acquired great wealth, but have become a powerful and dangerous body. The Ouelmas, at an early period of their existence, took advantage of their position to introduce a practice enabling them to extend protection to the property of slaves, which, by the laws of the Koran, reverted at death to the master. All Pashas, too, and others taking office, placed themselves in the same situation with respect to the Sultan, by which their lives were rendered the more precarious, for on becoming rich, they were frequently disposed of, their property seized on by the government, and their children destituted. To check this, as was pretended, the Ouelmas, by an instrument called "*Vakouf*," had the property of slaves and employees assigned over to them, during the life-time of its possessor, in trust for his family; but in default of issue, it became their own. By a strange anomaly, the property of a grandfather did not descend to his grandchildren, but to his clerical heirs. A charge was made for the annual management of any property which was thus placed in their care, and a portion deducted upon each trans-

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fer that took place. This pernicious system, together with the bequests made to mosques, and for other religious purposes, invested the Ouelmas with a great portion of the property of the empire; and at the same time excludes large tracts of land from cultivation, none of those belonging to this religious establishment being rendered so fruitful as the land in other hands.

Immediately after despatching the Janissaries, the Sultan seemed desirous of coming to a rupture with this body; first, by the Mufti's *fetwa* or order to change the clerical turban, and next, by the law for securing the hereditary descent of property. The latter measure, which was to have been followed up by a restoration or confiscation of deposits, but which has been deferred for the present—has despoiled the Ouelmas of much of their power; while the former has prodigiously brought down their towering pride. None can now approach the Tartar monarch without his red cap—be he priest or peasant; the religious orders are not distinguishable in external appearance from the general mass, and Mahmood only awaits his opportunity to associate the name of Ouelma with that of Janissary. He has not forgotten the alliance of the two in the rebellion of 1826, and when the sword of his vengeance shall be unsheathed, it will be at once to avenge a private quarrel, and effect a public good.

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Though not ordained by Mahomet, the *Dervishes* are another religious order, who imitate the old Latin anchorets in their savage fanaticism, to acquire a character of greater sanctity than other men. They are distinguished by hats that partake much of the colour and form of a sugar-loaf, and by other peculiarities. At Pera, a ceremony takes place every Friday, at one o'clock, which is worth mentioning. On entering a neat court-yard, opposite to the *Champs du Morts*, or burying-ground, in the main street, the one side presents a fountain with gilded bars and bowls, for cold fresh water; the other, the tomb of Bonneval, the French renegade; while in front stands an octagonal building, called the *Tecké*, the centre of which is partitioned off for the Dervishes, by a hand-railing, around which the spectators squat, having left their external slippers at the door—a custom to which strangers, as well as Turks, must submit. At a certain time, from thirty to fifty of these devotees, their chief being with them, set up a shout—*Allah il Allah*; a short prayer succeeds; and then after prostrating themselves and kissing the earth, they solemnly march one after the other, three times, making a circle, and invariably bowing twice on crossing a line which denotes the East! This ceremony being finished, music is heard to proceed from a gallery, the sound of which, however, is only comparable to the wind rushing through the fractures of an old

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barn. This is followed by a sort of apology for a drum, much inferior to a child's play-thing, and which is the signal for them simultaneously to clap their hands, and kiss the ground. This done, they suddenly rise, and throw off their cloaks, the under-dress exhibiting only a short white jacket and petticoat. After passing before the superior, and bowing down to the carpet at his feet, they turn round, with their arms folded in one direction, until the majority appear ready to drop down with giddiness and fatigue. The great merit in this exhibition appears to consist in making the petticoat form a full circle, as in an opera-dancer's pirouette; but they evidently mistake the giddiness of the head for the illumination of the spirit. This twirling, repeated two or three times, concludes the religious duties of the Dervishes.

Another set of these charlatans, exhibit at Scutari, every Tuesday, at the same hour. They vie with the Chinese jugglers, or with Prince Hohenlohe himself, in their attempts at imposition, pretending, amongst other absurdities, to burn their bodies with red-hot irons, and to undergo the extraction of their teeth!

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V. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND OTHER THINGS WORTH SEEING.

The city of Constantinople, as seen from the Bosphorus, is calculated to create expectations which will be disappointed upon an examination of its interior. In picturesque beauty and oriental adornment, it stands unrivalled, in the distance, perhaps, amongst the cities of the world; but having set foot within its walls, the traveller will find but little to call forth his admiration or to gratify his curiosity. The streets are narrow and ill-paved, and generally so uneven, that such a thing as a carriage could not be driven along them. The houses are built of wood, painted red, and are low and unsightly; and even the mosques and other public buildings, will be passed by without exciting attention.

Formerly, Constantinople, like "the eternal city," was divided into fourteen regions, each one exhibiting evidences of Roman magnificence. The 1st. region comprised The Palace of Plaudius, the Baths of Arcadius, and Theodosius' Column. The 2nd.—The Amphitheatre, St. Sophia, a Theatre, the Arsenal, Baths, and Columns. The 3rd.—The Hippodrome, Palace, and a Marble Gate. The 4th.—Bronze and Marble Columns, a Circus, and Monuments of Naval Achievements. The 5th.—Baths,

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Cisterns, a Forum, and an Obelisk from Thebes. The 6th.—A Burnt Column, ditto of Constantine, Church of St. Anastasius, and Baths. The 7th.—A Pyramid to indicate the Winds, a Forum, Column, and Temple. The 8th.—A Magnificent Church. The 9th.—A Forum and Public Magazines. The 10th.—Baths of Constantine. The 11th.—Palace of Faccilien, Cisterns, Church of the Apostles, (equal to St. Sophia), and a Virginal Column, upon which was placed the Statue of Venus. The 12th.—Golden Gate, and Cistern of Arcadius. The 13th.—Forum of Honorius. The 14th.—Theatre, Baths, and Palace. Where are all these magnificent objects gone?

Almost the only noticeable things now in the city, are the following:—

The Grand Seraglio, or *Royal Palace*, which is surrounded by a wall, surmounted by square towers towards the sea, and is three miles in circumference. It, at one period, formed the whole of Byzantium; but, like the Mount Palatine, at Rome, became, in process of time, too small for the residence of even one individual. Being no longer occupied by the Sultan, it affords a place of dignified retirement for the sultanas of deceased monarchs, and of seclusion for the male members of the royal family, where, debarred from all manly exercises, and restricted to the society of women and eunuchs, the young princes of the blood have contracted most effeminate

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and pernicious habits. An opinion has long prevailed, that the Sultans, ever since the conquest, have successively made some additions to a treasure supposed to have been then deposited in the foundations of this building, to enable them the better to defend the city, or, in the event of its falling into the hands of an enemy, to build another in Asia. The present Sultan, who is accused of making every thing subservient to the replenishing of his treasury, lies under the suspicion of having departed from the pledge he gave when begirt with the royal sabre, to follow the example of his predecessors, and hold the sacred treasure inviolable.

In the exterior court-yard, the heads of delinquents whose death calls for no privacy, are exposed to view. Some remain there for only a few hours, while others continue for three or four days; each one having an inscription affixed to it, stating the true or feigned cause of decapitation,—an honourable mode of death, confined to the higher orders, all others being caught, strangled, and left on the spot where they fall. It was here that, on the day of Sultan Selim's death, the head of Kislar Aga, with the heads of as many others as could be caught by the Bairacter were exhibited; that of the black being placed in a silver dish, on account of his high dignity.

In the second court-yard, on the left, is the royal mint; and a little further on, passports for Mecca

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and for the other world! are furnished to "the faithful." Nearly in front of the palace gate, and within sight of the windows, stands the fatal stone upon which so much human blood has been spilt. With what exquisite pleasure has the savage Tartar often beheld a poor Pasha hurrying across the yard to breathe the air of liberty, exulting at having passed through the fiery ordeal, and escaping the bow-string in the executioner's room,* and then witnessed his prostration on this awful block!

In an open office contiguous to this place, the devout Mussulmans obtain firmans or licences to visit the tomb of the prophet at Mecca, on the road to which, they die by thousands, although furnished with instructions in their own language, dictated by European physicians, how best to guard against the consequences of fatigue, climate, want, and dysentery. Those who have paid their devotions at the shrine, and return home, are distinguished by green turbans. Opposite to this office are the royal kitchens; and in front, the seraglio, whose threshold it is sacrilege to cross. On the outside of the wall here, may be seen the spout or wooden gutter through which female offenders are

* All persons before being admitted into the presence of the Sultan, are obliged to wait for some time in the room of this high and important functionary.

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transferred from the dominions of the Sultan to those of Neptune!

In the lower gardens which are attached to the rear of this splendid state-prison, the cypress forms a conspicuous feature; and here also stands a Grecian column, of large dimensions and of exquisite taste and workmanship, from whence is a view of the most charming description over the Isle of Palms, the Sea of Marmora, and an extensive region of Asia; the horizon being bounded by the Giant Mountain on the one side, and the snowy tops of Mount Olympus on the other.

The Mosques are all built upon Greek models; but notwithstanding that their numerous graceful minarets give them a pleasing effect in the distance, there are not more than three or four out of the three hundred contained in the city that are worthy of special notice. That of Achmet is the finest in architectural beauty; that of the Sultan Mehemet has been named the St. Peter's of the East; but that of *St. Sophia* is the most celebrated for its historical associations. From the minarets of the mosques the priests or Meuzzins invite the faithful to prayer. The invocation, which is pronounced five times in the course of the day, and is called *Eyan*, is as follows:—"Almighty God! I attest that there is no God but God, and that Mahomet is his prophet. Come ye faithful to prayer—come ye to the temple

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of salvation. There is no God but God. Prayer is preferable to sleep."

St. Sophia was built by Justinian, on the ruins of a church bearing the same name, that had been erected by Constantine but had been destroyed by fire. The revenues of Egypt during seventeen years were devoted to the work. Eight columns of *verde antique*, supposed to have formed part of the famous temple of Ephesus, were presented by the magistrates of that city, and others of porphyry were sent thither from the Temple of the Sun at Rome. The emperor boasted that he had raised a building which excelled in splendour the famous temple at Jerusalem, little thinking that they would both become desecrated by the Moslem, and

"Turbans now pollute Sophia's shrine."

In 1453, Mahomet II. having conquered the city, rode into the church, and after having offered up a prayer, he removed the altar and other objects pertaining to the Christian worship, consecrated the sacred edifice to his own prophet, and replaced the Bible by the Koran.

To inspect the interior of the mosque, the Sultan's own firman must be obtained, which may be done through the ambassador, at a cost of from ten to twelve pounds. The gates being once open, all who choose to enter may avail themselves of the opportunity; but few will leave it without

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feelings of disappointment. It will bear no comparison with the churches of Italy for architectural beauty, and its walls are destitute of all ornament. The cupola, which is 105 feet in diameter, and 165 feet in height from the pavement, is said to be the first work of that style of architecture. The mosque itself is 270 feet in length, from east to west, and 240 feet wide.

In the suburb of Eyoob stands the mosque in which the Lion-hearted Mahmood was girded with the royal sabre, and in the cemetery of which rest the ashes of many members of his noble house—the amiable Sultan Selim being of the number.

The *Hippodrome*, or Atmeidan,* an extensive oblong area, on one side of which stands the mosque of Achmet, protected by a handsome screen of masonry, was begun by Severus and completed by Constantine, upon the model of the grand Circus at Rome. It was adorned with the sacred Tripods, and the Apollo and Helicon Muses from Delphi. The four bronze horses—those records of the mutability of human greatness, which are now at Venice—were also brought from Rome, where they adorned the arch of Nero, and were placed in company with these sacred relics. But they have all disappeared. At present there are to be seen only an obelisk of granite, of whose locality, immediately

* Horse-market.

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before its transfer to Constantinople, writers disagree as widely as they do in decyphering the hieroglyphics on its base,* but which there is no doubt, came originally from Thebes; and a Pyramid, broken in half, covered by which intertwining bronze serpents, whose heads formerly supported the golden tripods consecrated to Apollo, after the defeat of Xerxes. This is the best-authenticated relic of the spoils of the Temple at Delphos. Mahomet II., seeing the infidel monument, became angry, and struck it with an axe, by which he cut off the head of one of the serpents.

The Circus is now reduced to 200 feet in length, and 50 in width. It is said that Belisarius, the Roman general, who, under Justinian, was the conqueror of Africans, Vandals, and Persians, and whose victorious arms so often saved the Circus, here received the honours of triumph, and afterwards begged at its gate!

At a short distance from the Seraskier's Tower, stands the *Tchernberle Tasch*, a porphyry column, of the Doric order, brought from Rome by Con-

* This obelisk is said to boast an antiquity of nearly 3,000 years. Pliny says, "The kings of Egypt cut these immense blocks each in imitation of his successor. They were dedicated to the Sun, as was expressed in their Egyptian name." The quarries from which they were cut, were as to Rome the extremity of the earth.

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stantine, and upon which he placed the statue of Apollo; it is thirty feet in circumference, and is composed of eight blocks, each ten feet in height. The top block and the figure were destroyed by a thunderbolt, and iron bands, placed both horizontally and perpendicularly, now hold the remains together, it having suffered much from the fires with which this part of the city has been visited. A modern restoration has completely covered the plinth!

The Cistern of a Thousand Columns is the cistern most worthy of attention; and from this one an idea may be formed of all the rest. Though called the *Cistern of a Thousand Columns*, however, the number of its columns do not exceed 336. The Romans, who had water in abundance, built these reservoirs to prevent a scarcity, although this magnificent one is now dry.

The Seven Towers, or *Yedi Youlélei*, are a cluster of forts erected by the immediate descendants of Constantine the Great, for the purpose of strengthening the fortifications of this part of the city. Each tower is about 200 feet in height, and the walls which enclose them are enormously thick, being constructed of immense blocks of stone. The conversion of this formidable structure into a state-prison has invested it with a degree of interest which it would not otherwise have possessed. Formerly, upon war being declared by any power

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against the Porte, its ambassador was immediately consigned to one of the seven towers; and tales of horror are connected with the dungeons beneath. A gloomy aperture, running down towards the foundations, is known as "the well of blood," and a court is pointed out, which is said to have frequently contained a pyramid of human skulls, reaching so high that from its summit might have been seen the Sea of Marmora. The barbarous practices which gave rise to these legends, however, exist no longer, and the once-dreaded bastile is fast falling into decay.

The Imperial Mausoleum, and the *Fountain* opposite, ornament two corners of a street. Fountains similar to this are seen throughout the city. They consist of an octagonal room, with gilded bars and bowls, and fresh water is supplied to all who desire it, by persons employed by the government.

Kis Koulessi, or "the Tower of the Maiden," stands isolated, between the seraglio and Scutari, and is used as a light-house. There is a legend attached to this tower, which some call "Tour de Leandre," to the following effect:—It having been predicted to one of the Sultans, that his favourite daughter should be stung to death by a serpent, he, in order to put such an event, as he thought, beyond possibility, erected this tower, in the most rapid part of the Bosphorus, where no reptile could exist, and placed her therein. But his precautions were

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futile; a small asp was conveyed thither in a basket of fruit; it bit her, and she died!—an event which confirmed the Turks in their belief, that nothing can change the decrees of the Eternal!

The Baths, or *Hummums*, of Constantinople, though evidently expensive in their construction and management, are open alike to all, no price being fixed or demanded for admission, but each giving what he pleases—the poor seldom more than a penny; the rich seldom more than one-and-sixpence. Having undressed in an outer room, a large coloured cloth is bound around the loins, and you are furnished with wooden slippers or clogs, and conducted into a warm apartment, from whence, when the blood is sufficiently excited, you are led into an octagonal marble chamber, heated to a great degree. In each angle of this is a smaller room, constructed of the same costly material, which the bather has the option of using; and to the sides are attached eight fonts for holding warm water. A number of bathers will generally be found lying upon raised planks on the floor, and producing at first sight a singular effect upon the nerves, since they look like so many dead bodies. Here you also are requested to lay down, and continue in a prostrate position, until in an almost insupportable state of perspiration, when an attendant commences the operation of shampooing, *i. e.* rubbing the body, and extending the joints, dwelling most upon any parts that may

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be affected. This done, you are placed by the side of a font, whence the water is ladled out and thrown over the body, which is rubbed at the same time with a coarse brown cloth or bag, into which the servant thrusts his hand. Scented soap is next brought into requisition, and the body is covered with a fine lather, which you are left to rinse off yourself, whilst the attendant goes to procure warm linen. This obtained, a turban is ingeniously formed of a towel, and the rest of the body is carefully enveloped. Thus equipped, you are re-conducted into the first-mentioned room, wherein are placed a number of inclining ottomans, that invite to repose. Here you obtain another supply of warm linen, and are solicited to partake of sherbet, lemonade, or coffee; not forgetting the chibook. Whilst thus indulging yourself here, the corns and incrustations of the feet are carefully operated upon, and shaving completes the business. When sufficiently cool, you are permitted to dress. Eighteen pence or two shillings paid for all this, stamps you as a person of consideration!

Harems.—The Harem forms a most important appendage to the Ottoman Porte, and although much reduced in power, it is still supposed to exercise some political influence. Under former sovereigns, its intrigues have been such as to shake the empire to its centre. In the Royal Harem are immured five or six hundred of the greatest beauties

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that Georgia, Greece, Egypt, or the neighbouring countries could furnish; and from these the Sultan selects seven favourites. When he desires a change, the discarded are removed to a dignified retirement in the old palace or seraglio, where are

"A thousand bosoms
Beating for love, as the caged birds for air."

Formerly, the inhabitants of the Harem were never permitted to pass through its portals, excepting for the purpose of being transferred to some other similar building; but the present Sultan, with a degree of humanity which is honourable to his character, not only allows them to go out, but to extend their walks, under a proper escort, into the city. They are sometimes to be seen in tolerable numbers, but excite no attention, except in European visitors.

But almost every person of consideration in Constantinople has his Harem, in which are to be found as many beautiful slaves as his means will command; and so sacred is the character of the place, as to place beyond redemption any one whose temerity might lead him to cross its threshold. It is invariably separated from the apartments of the men, and the windows, which are baricadoed, or, as the French more properly express it—protected by *jalousies*—seldom look out into the street. When

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they do so, the act of looking up at them excites the indignation of the owner.

The Bazaars or *Bezesteen*, though apparently under the same roof, are each devoted to its separate merchandize,—linens, cottons, shawls, silks, slaves, drugs, slippers, fruits, plate, fire-arms, and antiquities; and in most cases, two-thirds of the price asked is taken. The principal things worth purchasing, are Persian shawls, which vary in price from £20. to £250., Persian and Broussa silks, ottar of roses, pipes, embroidered muslin, Damascus barrelled rifles, with curious inlaid stocks from 40*s*. to £5. each; and yatigans. The two last mentioned articles belonged to the Janissaries; the art of producing the Damascus *jower* is lost, and the articles now made are of a very inferior quality.

In the *Slave Bazaar*, are seen huddled together in one part of an enclosed yard, a group of black boys, and in another, one of girls, a piece of coarse brown holland constituting their entire wardrobe. Each has an iron chain fixed round the waist, some of the girls being ornamented with brass bracelets on their wrists and ancles. They sell from £10. to £20. each, and are in great request as servants, no Turkish woman being allowed to fill that station. Men are kept at a distance from the city, and white women are shown in rooms adjoining the bazaar, and sell according to their youth and beauty, at from £20. to £150. Like cattle, in other markets,

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the fat have a preference over the lean ones; and the process of purchase and sale is truly disgusting. Byron aptly describes the scene :—

"The eunuch having eye'd them o'er with care,
Turn'd to the merchant, and began to bid
First but for one, and after for the pair;
They haggled, wrangled, swore, too—so they did!
As though they were in a mere Christian fair,
Cheapening an ox, an ass, a lamb, or kid;
So that their bargain sounded like a battle
For this superior yoke of human cattle."

What must have been the feelings of the unfortunate Greeks when thus subjected to the brutal treatment of the Turkish monsters, who exhibited them in droves after the affair at Scio? Volney asks, "Is it not extraordinary to read in Herodotus, that formerly Colchis (Georgia) received black inhabitants from Egypt, and to see the same country at this day make so different a return?"

This barbarous commerce is carried on in the same manner as the slave trade—by wars among the numerous tribes, and by the oppression of the inhabitants, who sell their own children for a subsistence. The slaves of both sexes are first brought here, and from hence are dispersed throughout the empire; and although a Georgian or a Greek of extraordinary beauty is not exposed in the bazaars, the dealers always know where to find a purchaser,

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at a good price; but as such a present generally precedes the asking of a favour from officers of state and other high personages, the trade is interdicted to Jews and Christians. The Koran decrees the manumission of slaves after seven years, but the law is more honoured in the "breach than in the observance," for a greater calamity cannot happen to the poor blacks when worn out, than to be turned friendless upon the world. Some of these poor creatures are occasionally seen in a state of misery that pen cannot describe.

We may as well here describe, as one of the sights to be seen in Constantinople,

The Festival, which is usually held in May, and which was this year, (1836), celebrated on an enlarged scale of Oriental magnificence, in consequence of the marriage of a sultana. Pashas and Ambassadors were summoned from all quarters, to assist at the ceremony; and none ventured to attend without bringing a present worthy the reception of an Eastern monarch. These presents, which on occasions of such a nature, far exceed the amount of the annual tribute, were exhibited in the daily processions. At night, the *Riahatana*, or Sweet Waters, and the Bosphorus were illuminated, and presented the picture of a vast fairy city, floating

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on the bosom of the placid waves, only to be imagined by the reader of the Arabian Nights. At the head of this expanse of waters, were erected an amphitheatre and other buildings, for the purpose of circumcision; and the importance of the occasion attracted multitudes from the most remote and retired parts of the Sultan's extensive dominions. No fewer than *six thousand children* and *adults*, including the two young princes, were thus admitted to the rights and privileges of Mussulmans, in the space of fifteen days.

Society being altogether unknown in Constantinople, much of the festival is usually spent in the *caïques*, or small boats, that for neatness and elegance, are merley excelled by the matchless gondolas of Venice; and when it is stated, that these boats furnish not only the amusement, but the only mode of conveyance from one quarter of the city to another, for at least half a million of people, it will not be difficult to form some idea of the life and activity that a fête of this magnitude must have presented. Some of the boats represented sea-horses,—others, dolphins, carriages, and various other fanciful forms; while Pashas and ambassadors, the latter attended by servants in gaudy liveries, the former by half a dozen soldiers, were seen lounging under splendid canopies in their caïques, rowed by ten pair of oars, and cutting through the water at an almost incredible rate.

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Here was to be seen one filled by a party of fat Armenians, and there another, containing a stately Oslamis with his little harem. Not far distant, on the shore, was an encampment of troops, with tents of varied hues; and placed contiguously, one for Pashas and other persons of distinction, accompanied by marquees of unequalled splendour. The Sultan had a phaeton, with four small chesnut horses, which he drove about the grounds of his palace at *Beshicktash*, whither the ladies of his Harems were taken in covered waggons, of a hearse-like form, having windows on each side, gilt in a most extravagant manner. Each vehicle was drawn by a pair of oxen, gaudily caparisoned, with small looking-glasses in their foreheads. Four sultanas rode in each waggon, and were guarded by as many eunuchs; but although their faces, excepting the eyes and nose, were covered,* it was easy to distinguish their features, which inclined to a sickly and pallid hue. Aloft, men exhibited on the tight-rope; and below, the children of Armenians, Greeks, and Jews, paraded about, singing the praises of the founder of the feast. The peculiar character of the amusements, the odd appearance of the booths and their inmates, the heterogeneous mass of which the crowds were composed, the *outré* costumes, and

* The females are less scrupulous now than formerly, and rather court being seen.

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the confused buz, which every where prevailed, gave to the entire scene the appearance of being a masquerade upon an enormous scale.

VI. ECONOMICAL INFORMATION FOR VISITORS AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

Hotels.—Of these there are the Guiseppine, d'Europe, d'Italia, and Couronne d'Ungarn, in all of which it is the custom to charge by the day; usually about two dollars. Madame Rubot, Madame Balbiani, and Madame Carton, keep boarding houses; and at the table of the latter, especially, the traveller will meet with good fare, and acquire much useful information.

A Chuvesch, which has superseded the *Janissary*, will be requisite to make purchases, and see the different objects of curiosity. On application to Mr. Cartwright, the British Consul-General, a chuvesch belonging to the embassy, named Mustafa, who speaks English, and who is a Turkish encyclopedia, will be permitted to accompany the party. He is paid one dollar a day.

A Mr. Stampa keeps an English store, changes money, and is very communicative.

On visiting the bazaars, guard against Jews, who persist in proffering their agency!

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Money :—

40 paras make	. . .	1 piaster
45 piasters make	. .	1 ducat
21 piasters make	. .	1 dollar
100 piasters make	. .	1 guinea.

The bourse contains 30,000 piasters.

For Greece, the passport must be signed by the English and Greek ambassadors; to return overland by Semlin, it must be signed by the Austrian ambassador, and a firman, or teskere, be obtained.

The *Maria Dorothea* steam-boat leaves for Smyrna, on Monday, at five o'clock, and makes the voyage in thirty-six hours. An English steamer—the Crescent, leaves on Tuesdays, at five o'clock, generally making the voyage in thirty hours. The charge in each, including provisions, is thirteen dollars. To see the Plains of Troy and the Ruins of Assos, opposite to Mitylene, the traveller should leave in the *Maria Dorothea*, and meet the *Crescent* in the Dardanelles, after having seen these places.

[For steamers to other places, see pages 4, &c. ante.]

For Semlin or Belgrade, overland, a Tartar, named Achmet, furnishes horses, guides, and provisions. Four persons, for themselves, guide, and baggage, will require eight or nine horses, for which the charge is 3,500 piasters.

Letters for England must be left at the Austrian Embassy, and the postage be paid.

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For making excursions on horseback, English saddles may be procured; and for ladies, those of the Tartars or Greeks, well covered with cloaks, will be found tolerably convenient.

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CHAPTER XIII.

EXCURSIONS FROM CONSTANTINOPLE.

PLACING his foot for the first time on Asiatic soil, the traveller will not fail to reflect that he is now upon the largest continent of the ancient world, extending from the dreary confines of the Polar regions to the centre of the tropics. Its extent is estimated at little less than twenty-four millions of square miles, being nearly equal to Europe and Africa united. Here the human race had birth, and here primeval Ararat rears its snowy peaks, reminding mankind of the most memorable event in the moral and physical history of the globe. Here, too, Babylon, Nineveh, and Jerusalem rose and fell; and here was the theatre of Cyrus', Alexander's, and Mahomet's exploits. Upon its soil, the transactions recorded in the Scriptures took place; the prophets lived and died there, and Jesus Christ accomplished the mysteries of salvation!

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SCUTARI.

At the extremity of the town, a forest composed of the mournful cypress, indicates the cemetery, or church-yard, a place of promenade and recreation for some, of sorrow and meditation for others. This is the last home of the rich, who in life derive comfort from a conviction, that their remains, interred under the sombre shade of the cypresses of Scutari, will not, like Constantinople, be consigned to infidel hands. They hold, that the earth of the continent, rendered holy by possessing the dust of the Great Prophet, can never be subjected to such a dire fatality.

Horses are always to be procured for a visit to the *Giant Mountain*, which occupies about four hours; but though a large grave, said to be that of a giant, is shown here, there is nothing remarkable but the scenery, which will, however, amply repay the trouble of the journey.

The only piece of good road in Turkey, supplied with post houses, horses, and postillions, is from hence to *Isnikmid*, on the way to *Broussa*. Four horses attached to a small narrow waggon, without springs, gallop off with you at an incredible pace. The circumstance of one falling dead on the road from exhaustion, is treated as a matter of course.

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BELGRADE.

This place is about ten miles distant from Constantinople. Here the traveller should see *Backchey Keni*, or the aqueduct, and proceed from thence over the green-sward, which is like a carpet, to "the Lovely Valley" at Búyúkderé, and there smoke a chibook, and take coffee, under the famous plane tree.

BROUSSA.

A journey to Broussa will occupy nearly a week. A boat must be taken to the Gulph of Modania, and horses thence to the city, which being only a distance of fifteen miles is accomplished in three or four hours.

Broussa, the capital of Bithynia, is situated in a plain about 20 miles in length, and evidencing unusual care in its cultivation. To the south, the snow-crowned Olympus, the proudest of all the Grecian summits, on which fable and mythology placed the celestial mansion and the throne of Jupiter, rears it hoary head. The city contains about 50,000 inhabitants, who, by their industrious habits have acquired a celebrity in the manufacture of silk, and who enjoy more *aisance* than any other people under the same government. At least 350

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mosques, and as many thousand cypresses, relieve the monotony which would otherwise be produced by a mass of unsightly wooden houses. Want of accommodation for travellers, would, notwithstanding the beauty of its position, exclude this city from their researches, but for its renowned mineral baths. Still, the reminiscences connected with its more modern history are replete with interest. The high position which it held prior to the conquest of Constantinople, as the capital of Turkey, and the battle fought there between Tamerlane and Bajazet, in which no less than 400,000 were slain, and when the conqueror condemned his vanquished foe to pass the remainder of his days in an iron cage, may be considered as the chief incidents which connect it with the Ottoman empire.

To vary the scenery and incidents of this journey, the traveller should return to Constantinople by way of *Isnikmid*, a place which, in the time of Diocletian, was known as Nicomedia, and enjoyed the dignity of being the Roman capital. Some travellers have identified it as the spot in which is placed the tomb of Rome's greatest enemy—Hannibal.

Not far distant is *Nice*, celebrated for two grand ecclesiastical councils held there under Constantine, A. D. 325, and which was taken by the crusaders in 1097.

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The country is, in all directions, very beautiful, but exceedingly unwholesome.

Persons who do not wish to extend their tour beyond the limits already described, but who desire to vary their journey homewards, may proceed

FROM CONSTANTINOPLE TO SEMLIN, OVERLAND.

Horses are to be procured at the different post stations, and the journey, according to the Turkish mode of travelling, occupies 180 hours in the saddle, without allowing for delays. Couriers effect it in nine days, whilst others require thirteen or fourteen; but at a fine season of the year—and at any other few would abandon the excellent steam accommodation—travellers will have a better opportunity of becoming acquainted with the country and the people, besides finding themselves much more at their ease, by extending it over a space of eighteen or twenty days.

Two very tedious days' ride may be avoided, by proceeding, in the first instance, to *Rodosto*, in Roumelia, in a boat; from thence, twenty hours on horseback, divided into two days, will bring the traveller to

ADRIANOPLE,

or the city of Adrian, the second city in the empire, containing an uncertain population of about

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100,000 souls. Prior to the possession of Constantinople by the Mussulmans, it was for a century the Turkish European capital. In perambulating the streets, one comes alternately to palaces, mosques, bazaars, and cemeteries, much in the style of Constantinople itself, excepting that it is smaller, and remarkably clean. Although there are scarcely any traces of its ancient walls, its situation at the confluence of two rivers, renders its position favourable for defence. The last remarkable traits in its history, was its occupation by General Diebitsch, and the treaty concluded there with the Porte, in 1829.

From thence, three days, or thirty-two hours, are allowed for reaching

PHILIPOPOLIS,

an apparently flourishing town, which is divided into two parts by a fine river, over which is thrown a wooden bridge. The post-house furnishes what will have become of much more importance than running over the uninteresting city—a good dinner, with wine and ices of an excellent description. On quitting the town, an ascent indicates the commencement of the far-famed Balkan, a continuous chain of mountains, stretching from the head of the Adriatic to the Black Sea. The traversing of the rugged and dangerous passes of these mountains, penetrating their romantic defiles, and crossing their many deep

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and rapid waters, may be considered as forming the most interesting part of the journey. Three days' travel from hence will bring us to

SOPHIA,

which is the capital of Bulgaria, a large, dull, dirty town, situated in a flat, marshy plain, on leaving which, the scenery becomes more varied and picturesque, from the undulatory or mountainous character of the country. From hence it requires three good days' travel to reach Belgrade.

NISSA,

a Servian town, will furnish to those who require it, a carriage, though of a Gothic description, to prosecute the remainder of the journey. Here the physical features of the country, and the manners of the people, present a totally different aspect to any thing around—the effect of industry and better government. An extensive forest of oaks, that would suffer no disparity on a comparison with those in the wilds of North America, has monopolized a great portion of the surface of Servia, and through this a carriage-road is cut to Belgrade.

Roumelia, through which the traveller will have passed, gave birth to one of the most extraordinary men of the present day, viz. *Mahommed* or *Mehemet*

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Ali. He was born at Cavalla, in the year 1769. Arrived at manhood, he married a widow of the family in which he was employed as a collector of taxes, and had three sons, Ibrahim, Toussoun, and Ismael. He subsequently commenced trade as a tobacco merchant, and continued in it with success, until the governor of the district in which he lived was obliged to furnish a contingency of men, amounting to 300, in order to oppose the French in Egypt. The command of these troops he confided to his son, and sent Mahommed with him, as a sort of Mentor. The young man soon grew tired of his occupation, and surrendered it to Mahommed, who thereupon assumed the title of *Bim bashi*. His successes and intrigues at length raised him to the dignity of Pasha, and finally procured him the viceroyalty of Egypt, with the dignity of three tails. In this high office, he has distinguished himself as a most extraordinary man. Finding that his objects were opposed by a remnant of the Mamelukes, he, in 1811, determined upon their annihilation. In order to effect this, he invited them to Cairo, in the citadel of which he received the Beys with great ceremony and apparent friendship, at the very moment that he was planning their assassination, which took place on their leaving his presence. The Beys or leaders being thus disposed of, all their escort fell into his hands, and were instantly beheaded. On the following morning, the citadel

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appeared as a vast slaughter-house, 500 of the cavalry lying about dead. The villages were afterwards searched, and every Mameluke found was put to death. Having subdued Arabia, he proceeded to Mecca, and on his return, attempted to put in execution a project he had for some time cherished, of training his troops after the European fashion, of which a revolt was the consequence. About this time, too, he lost his son Toussoun Pasha, who had been succeeded as commander of the troops in Arabia, by his brother Ibrahim, who completely subdued the Wahabees, and sent the captive chief to Constantinople, in order to give the Sultan the pleasure of beheading him. For this act Ibrahim received the distinguishing title of *Khan*, which carries with it a perpetual immunity from the risk of judicial decapitation.

In 1820, Ismael Pasha, the youngest son of Mahommed, was sent to the Upper Nile, to subdue all the provinces from the Second Cataract to Sennaar, and was successful; but it cost him his life, for having ordered one of the chiefs to be bastinadoed, he watched his opportunity when Ismael was encamped in a village, with a guard of forty men, surprized his lodgings by night, and at the head of his party, stabbed the Pasha to the heart.

The troops appear to have been subjected to an equal fatality, for out of 20,000 able-bodied men, not more than 3,000 remained alive at the end of two

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years. The old chieftain, however, still cherished his purpose of recruiting his army with blacks from these provinces, and having seized 30,000 Arab Fellahs, he marched them into Upper Egypt, and formed them into a corps. They were officered chiefly by Mamelukes, who had been disciplined and instructed by Colonel Sève, formerly Aide de Camp to Marshal Ney, who, having turned Mahometan, was named Suliman Bey. A military arsenal, with a cannon foundry, and a powder manufactory, were also established at Cairo, and conducted by a Frenchman.

In 1824, Mahommed Ali assisted in suppressing the Greek insurrection in Candia; and in 1825, he sent his fleet to the Morea, for a similar purpose, but found it much easier to conquer than subdue the Mainotes. In 1828, his fleet suffered with the Sultan's at Navarino; and in 1831, having been refused the Pashalic of Acre, he declared war against the Porte, and his son, Ibrahim Pasha, who is a warrior of the first order, marched within a short distance of Broussa; but finding that the Russians had been called in to the assistance of the Sultan, he was compelled to retire. Mahommed, however, has taken all Syria, where, as well as in Egypt, he exercises all the power of a sovereign, although he is too well aware of Mussulman prejudice to ask to be recognised as such. The

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Sultan, however, has acknowledged the right of succession in his descendants.

That the Sultan hardly bears to be named in comparison with this extraordinary man, all must admit. Mahommed Ali was never known to shed blood, either from mere caprice, or with a view of adding to his wealth; although, to carry any plan into operation, he never allowed human life to stand in his way. In making his grand canal, 150,000 persons were seized upon, and made to work in the earth with their finger-nails, finding themselves in provisions during the time, or dying of want. They were divided into gangs of about thirty, each one being goaded on by a driver. To build a man-of-war, some years since, 2000 or 3000 men were similarly seized, and so thickly placed at their work that they injured each other, and many died from suffocation. Sooner than lose a finger-nail, the Pasha would sacrifice half the population of Egypt; but he was ever above indulging in private pique or plunder. The regeneration of Egypt—the institutions and reforms which he has effected, all tend to show that he is entitled to be considered as a "great man."

It is a curious fact, that Mahommed Ali, Napoleon Bonaparte, and the Duke of Wellington were all born in the same year!

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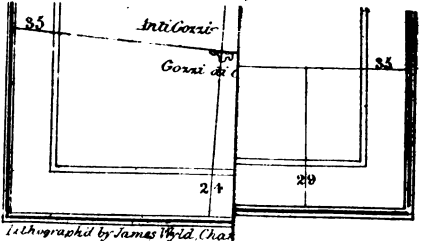

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CHAPTER XIV.

ASIA MINOR.

The Dardanelles.—Sestos.—Nagara, &c.—The Troad.—Mitylene.—Assos.—Smyrna.—Ephesus.—Island of Scio.

SUPPOSING the traveller to be still at Constantinople, and desirous to extend his excursions into Asia Minor and Greece, both of which are included in the tour intended to be sketched out in these pages, he should proceed

I. FROM CONSTANTINOPLE TO SMYRNA.

Distance 310 *miles.*

The steam-boat leaves at five o'clock, P. M., and after passing the Isles of Princes, and losing sight of the Imperial city, an excellent dinner will be served up; and the waters here being as unruffled as a lake, except in boisterous weather, we need not say that the enjoyment of the repast will be much en-

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hanced. The Propontides or Sea of Marmora, calculated from the Isles of Princes to Gallipoli, is 150 miles in length, and in breadth about ninety. At five o'clock on the following morning, the vessel should be at the entrance of

THE DARDANELLES OR HELLESPONT,

which forms the communication between the Sea of Marmora and the Archipelago.*

The passage of this strait, which is about thirty-three miles long, and varying in breadth from half a mile to a mile and a half, is protected by a number of formidable batteries placed upon its banks, and mounting between 400 and 500 pieces of cannon. British valour, however, proved itself more than equal to their power, when, in 1807, Admiral Duckworth forced the passage; and although the fortifications have subsequently been strengthened, it may reasonably be presumed that English ingenuity has provided against any contingency that may be apprehended in the closing of the Dardanelles, by the invention of steam-boats.

The Hellespont is rendered famous by having been crossed by Alexander and Xerxes; by the story of the tragic loves of Leander and Hero; and

* Persons proceeding up the Dardanelles, might be put on shore at Mitylene, see the plains of Troy, and proceed overland to Broussa, from thence to Isnikmid, Scutari, and Constantinople.

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by its association with the siege of Troy. The descent of this noble stream is, in fact, connected with the history of ages.

Gallipoli guards the entrance, and is interesting as having been the first place in Europe where the Turks acquired that dominion which so rapidly extended itself, and which became so disastrous in its consequences. It is seated upon a rock, that forms a Cape, at the extremity of which stands a light-house; and it is said to contain 24,000 inhabitants, famous for the manufacture of Turkey leather, which they have brought to the highest perfection by a process which they keep a profound secret. Gallipoli was formerly celebrated for its gardens, wines, and temples; and particularly for the singularity of its religion. Nearly opposite are two small villages given by Xerxes to Themistocles, the one for his retreat, and the other for his wine. About fifteen miles from hence is

Sestos,—though it is thought that the place of that name, where Hero dwelt, and where Xerxes had his bridge of boats, was three miles lower down, where is the narrowest part of the channel, not exceeding seven furlongs in width; and where, on the Asiatic shore stands *Abydos*, the dwelling place of Leander, who having swam across the Hellespont, to visit Hero of Sestos, attempting to return by the same way, failed in his strength and was drowned. Hero, who was guiding her lover, by the light of a

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torch, from the top of a tower, threw herself into the sea, and shared his fate.

Lord Byron swam from Sestos to the opposite shore, making an oblique descent of three miles, in an hour and ten minutes. Mr. Turner states that to have made the passage in an opposite direction would have been a much more difficult task, the current being so strong on the Asiatic side, that after a vain attempt, during twenty-five minutes, he abandoned it.

Nagara nearly faces the tomb of a Turkish saint, which their men of war salute, having vowed to do so on reaching the spot in safety. This part of the sea is protected by strong batteries, four on the European, and four on the Asiatic side, built obliquely, so that the huge balls of sixty pounds weight, which are carried across, a distance of a mile and a half, may not injure those on the opposite shore. They were erected by Mahomet IV. and are called the Keys of Constantinople. Though distant 200 miles from the city, no merchant vessel can pass without a firman or passport. Those coming from the capital are detained three days at Abydos, in order to ascertain that they carry off no slaves.

The *Town of Dardanelles* is celebrated for the famous peace concluded between Mithridates and Sylla. It is the residence of a British consul, and contiguous are a large hospital and barracks, constructed by Russian engineers, and, standing in a

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marsh, as though intended for destroying the Turks, the country offering no other spot equally unhealthy. The Russians also erected eight hurdle-batteries here, but they were so ill-constructed that they have been removed, and others substituted by Prussian workmen. A not very unusual exercise of despotic power was connected with this undertaking. The Sultan's firman pointing out the ground for the works, having been received, the Pasha, finding that it belonged to himself, sent for a creditor, and insisted upon his taking it for a debt. In a couple of days, he was informed that it was required by the government, who makes no recompense to its subjects, all lands being supposed to belong to the Sultan, except those dedicated to religious uses.

Nearly opposite, is a small village, called

Chandcabesi, and below, *Kilid Bahar*, or the Key of the Sea. Then we come to

Barber Point, proverbial as the scene of disastrous shipwrecks; and next appears the village of

Nerringuay, from whence are exported *vallonia*, or husks of acorns. On the left, is the

Fortress of Siego; and then

The Troad, or Ancient Kingdom of Priam, celebrated as the scene of Homer's Iliad, and which extends to the Adramyttian Gulf, the perspective being bounded by Mount Ida.

The city of Troy, the capital of the country, was

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built by Dardanus, its first king, in the year of the world 2524; but not one stone now remains upon another, to mark the spot which Greek and Roman genius combined to render so famous. Some difference of opinion exists amongst the learned, as to the spot described by the great poet, and it is alleged, amongst other things, that alluvial deposits must have effected great changes. Recent investigation, however, seems to bear us out in saying, that Homer's topography has been so far traced, as to leave little or no doubt of its identity. Broken columns, six feet in diameter, are occasionally found; though these are supposed to belong to Troy Alexander, which was erected near the ruins of the former city, in honour of the Macedonian monarch.

In winter, these plains produce a prodigious number of ducks, herons, snipes, plovers, and other aquatic birds, which any one who pleases may shoot, no "Game Certificate" being required!

But there is something else to be noted; for

"There, on the green and village-cotted hill, is
(Flank'd by the Hellespont, and by the sea,)
Entomb'd the bravest of the brave—Achilles,—
They say so—(Bryant says the contrary);
And further downward, tall and towering still, is
The Tumulus—of whom? Heaven knows: 't may be
Patroclus, Ajax, or Protesilaus,—
All heroes, who, if living still, would slay us."

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But although tumuli, said to be the tombs of Achilles and Ajax, are pointed out, it is pretended that the ashes of the former were exhumed, and deposited at *Tenedos* or Natolia, an island, which is distant six or seven miles, and where Alexander is stated to have wept over the tomb of that famous warrior.

Tenedos is celebrated for its muscatel wine, which is more esteemed than any other in the Archipelago. The inhabitants, nearly all Greeks, are estimated at about 5,000. They are extremely poor, and their habitations are of the most wretched description.

Tenedos has asserted a claim to the honour of having given birth to Agamemnon.

Besicka Bay is approached by two batteries; and here the English fleet anchor, until permitted to enter the straits. Passing

Cape Baba, a fortress and town, the ancient promontory of Lectos, which is now apparently deserted, we arrive at

Mitylene, formerly Lesbos, of poetic fame, and the country of Sappho and Alcaes. But though so considerable at one time as to form an asylum, and afford occupation to 40,000 inhabitants, it now offers nothing to arrest the traveller's attention.

Assos, on the Asiatic shore, however, will amply repay the antiquarian's researches, although, in the anxiety to visit the far-famed Trojan Plains, the splendid and extensive ruins which here exist have

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been comparatively neglected. The crumbling remains of a large and well-built city, such as streets of houses, an amphitheatre, baths, and prostrate columns, will furnish much occupation to the curious and inquisitive.

The Fortress of Mullivar, embosomed in woods of olives, on the one side, and the ruins of *Casda* on the other, are all that remain to be seen before entering the Gulph and Bay of Smyrna, where the vessel arrives about midnight.

II. SMYRNA.

This town is said to contain 100,000 inhabitants, and claims the distinction of having given birth to Homer. The first mention of it in history, was 1050 B. C. It has been ten times destroyed by earthquakes and conflagrations, and it was after one of these calamities that Alexander the Great laid the foundation of a new city. Timothy was its first bishop, and here was held the third general council of the church. Though important for commerce, it is destitute of interest or amusement; the streets are crooked and dirty, and the bazaars inferior to those at Constantinople.

It contains not a single antiquity, or an object of art. There is a castle in ruins, on the top of an eminence, which commands a view of the town, and

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of a charming district of country; and to see this, and read the papers at the Casino or Club, will occupy a day. Another may be appropriated to visit *Boudja* and *Bournabat*, two pretty suburban retreats of merchants, who enter the city merely to transact business.

If the traveller choose to throw off his migratory habit for a time, and enter into the society which this gay and animated place—termed "The Paris of the Levant"—affords, he may make his stay somewhat longer, without finding it disagreeable. The women are pretty, and their picturesque costumes and graceful *tournures* have enabled one writer to discover in them the representatives of the Grecian sculpture!

The merchants of Smyrna have increased in about an equal ratio to the decrease of commerce, a great part of which is removed to Pera. The Turks complain that Smyrna is no longer what it was, particularly since their reforming Sultan has insisted upon Christians being treated with respect. Previously to the emancipation of Greece, the arrival of news indicating any insurrectionary movement in that part of the Turkish dominions, was a signal to hunt the unfortunate Hellenes through the town, and shoot them in the public streets, with as much evident satisfaction as that with which a sportsman bags his game; and so indifferent were the handsome Greek women to such enormities, that though,

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in going to the *Casino*,* they were compelled to walk almost over the mangled corpses of their countrymen, they went thither, and joined in the dance, with all the *sang-froid* imaginable. In this they remind one of the Parisians, who never ceased their amusements even when the allies were at the gates of their *belle capital*.

The visitor to Smyrna will find the "Pension Suisse" to be a good hotel; but a boarding-house, kept by Madame Marachina, affords the best accommodation. The price is one dollar per day.

[The Levant steamer goes from Smyrna to Athens twice a month. See page 4, &c., ante.]

III. EPHESUS.

To visit this celebrated city, the traveller must procure the Bey's firman, and a trusty Tartar guide, which he may obtain through the English Consul. Horses, also, should be hired for three days, at one dollar a day each, and provisions laid in for the same time, as no sort of accommodation will be found on the road. A ride of from fifteen to eighteen hours brings you in sight of the *Acropolis*, and of the place where once stood the far-famed

Temple of Diana, burnt by the Amazons, about

* The Casino is used for public balls.

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the year 1182 B. C.; by Erostrate, in 356 B. C.; and lastly by the Goths, A. D. 256.

Once the seat of enterprize and active commerce, Ephesus is deserted; the very sea has shrunk from its solitary shores, and its streets, formerly so thronged with the devotees of Diana, are now ploughed over by the Ottoman serfs, or browsed upon by the sheep of the illiterate peasant. Once the head of the apostolic churches of Asia, it now contains not a single Christian within it. Its mouldering arches and dilapidated walls give but a faint idea of its ancient glory.

The actual site of this first "wonder of the world," is a matter of doubt and controversy. Pocock and Van Egmont state that it was in a marsh towards the S. W. corner of the plain, having a lake on the west side, (now a morass,) extending to the Cayster River; and they pretend to have discovered foundations calculated to support that opinion.

Some gigantic foundations of a building, discovered within the modern fortifications, though partaking strongly of Roman features, show that the high and commanding position of the Acropolis was appreciated at a very remote period. The only remains that have any pretensions to an alliance with the sacred pile, are a number of enormous columns that support the dome of a mosque, and part of its marble facade; and several of these temples, now in a state of decay, lead to the belief that

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even Mussulmans were seized with a religious veneration for the spot. The buttresses or supporters of an aqueduct, extending for about half a mile, as well as every building and tree to be found, are in the possession of a community of storks,* and upon the very apex of them are placed their nests.

After crossing the Cayster Bridge, the traveller should traverse the plains, barren and desolate, leading to the right, where the tracts of former pilgrims will conduct him to some rocks, in which chariot-roads have been worn by wheels, that resemble in every respect those in the streets of Pompeii. The scenery here is of a romantic character, and looks as if nature had never been interfered with. Camels grazing in endless pastures, then encampments of the same animals, and, lastly, continued strings of them, announce the close proximity of the sacred *meles*, over whose bridge the traveller passes before his descent into the labyrinth of Smyrna.

From Smyrna to Athens the distance is 285 miles, and on its way the steam-boat passes

* These birds have and such attachment to the Oslamin race, that in towns and villages where they are seen to occupy a tree, house, or minaret belonging to them, they are also observed to avoid those of Jews or Christians, and generally even the district occupied by them.

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IV. THE ISLAND OF SCIO,

called "the Flower of the Levant," and *Cape Colonna*, which though apparently lonely and desolate, is celebrated for its Temple of Minerva, and as being the scene of Falconer's *Shipwreck*. The voyage is made in forty-eight hours.

Previously to the Greek Revolution, in 1820, the Sciotes lived on friendly terms with the Turks, and had established schools and a college, to which most of the country resorted, and in which they had made considerable intellectual improvement. In 1821, they succeeded, with the assistance of Lord Cochrane, in ejecting the Turks; and to revenge the atrocities then committed,* Ali Pasha, in 1823,

* The same atrocities were committed by the Greeks at Missolonghi. The horrors that succeeded the defeat of the Turks were heart-rending, no respect being paid to age or sex. Nor is it easy to describe the brutalities indulged in. Numbers were tied back to back, and left upon the mountains to starve; whilst others so confined were hacked and hewed in a most savage manner! The Turks threatened vengeance, and besieged the place: the Greeks made various offers to capitulate, and no terms would have been refused; but the answer was, "Revenge!"—the Sultan having been so incensed by their cruelty, it is said, as to have written to Reschid Pasha, "Missolonghi, or your head!" Thus, no alternative but death presenting itself, the Greeks, in the last stage of despair, were forced into that desperate act which the world has construed into one of heroism.

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having effected a landing of troops from the Turkish fleet, ordered a general massacre of the male population. Upwards of 40,000 are said to have been sacrificed, and as many, principally females, to have been carried to Constantinople as slaves. A new Pasha, or governor, was appointed, and strange to say, he exhibited his humanity by collecting and succouring the poor creatures who had escaped the massacre, promising his protection to all who should return. Confidence being thus restored, about 15,000 settled down to their occupations, when in 1827, Colonel Fabvier landed in the island, but, after subjecting it for some months to the horrors of war, was forced to retire, leaving the unfortunate people to assuage the wrath of the Turks as best they could. They dreaded a renewal of the tragic scenes of 1823; but greatly to his honour, the Pasha kept his promise, and no retaliation took place.

On the settlement of the Greek question, this island was ceded to Turkey, to whom it nowbelongs; but the disastrous occurrences of which it had been the scene, reduced a population of 100,000 to about one-sixth of that number, and converted into a desert an island that had previously been considered as the most beautiful in the Levant.

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CHAPTER XV.

MODERN GREECE.

Condition of the People.—Athens.—Mount Hymettus.—Egina.—Epidaurus.—Tirynus.—The Morea.—Napoli di Romania.—Argos.—Mycenea.—Megaspilion.—Corinth.—Delphi.—Patras.

Modern Greece is stated to contain an area of 57,750 square miles; and is thus almost equal in extent to England, although its population does not exceed 700,000 souls. Though possessing some fine antiquities, and associated with many extraordinary facts and fictions, the sight or recollection of which calls forth the sublimest ideas, the traveller cannot traverse this

"Land of lost gods and god-like men"

without painful emotions.—Excepting the

"Isles, that gem
Old ocean's purple diadem,"

and which, as seen in the distance as if floating upon the waters, present a beautiful appearance, the scenery is flat and monotonous, and will bear

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no comparison with that of many other countries. Lord Byron says, "I heard much of the beauty of Arcadia, but, except the view from Megaspilion, which is inferior to Zitza in command of country, and the descent from the mountains in the way from Tripolitza to Argos, Arcadia has but little to recommend it, but its name."

Most of the mountains in the country are barren, and therefore unpicturesque, and the valleys are for the most part destitute of trees, although some of them are richly clothed with forests of myrtles and oleanders. The land every where gives evidence of the absence of industry, and shows that the Greeks are no more attached to agricultural pursuits now than in former times, when they were dependent for corn upon foreign countries.

Nor is the social and political condition of the Greeks more gratifying to the eye of the observer, than the physical aspect of their country. Totally uneducated, accustomed to a sort of guerilla warfare—to pillage and piracy, in which many of them have amassed large sums of money—possessing in themselves and in their islands as great a quantity of combustible matter as is to be found in the composition of Vesuvius, and almost as inflammable—believing that they can gain nothing individually, but rather risk the loss of that of which long-established custom has given them the possession or the use, the greater portion of the people desire no

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change, and deprecate every thing tending to introduce an orderly state of things.

The Roman Catholic religion is, without doubt, much less favourable to the promotion of a high state of civilization and intellectual superiority than the Protestant faith; but it is by far superior, in this respect, to the Greek Church. The latter dispenses, indeed, with the celibacy of the clergy, but it enjoins the veneration of a larger number of saints, prescribes more fasts, and substitutes the Czar for the Pope;* circumstances that do not at all tend to increase its beneficial influence, upon either the religious or the social habits of those who are subject to it. Even in their palmy days, the different states of Greece exhibited in their capricious and wayward character the baneful influence of a corrupt priesthood, who, through the instrumentality of a senseless or fanatical girl, promulgated their venal decrees from the Delphic Temple. The Greeks of the present day, are not less the dupes of an ignorant and bigotted sacer-

* The votaries of the Greek church are bound to observe 195 days of rigid fasting in the course of the year, upon which they will not touch even fish. Besides these, there are 91 close feasts, and each town has, in addition, several days dedicated to some saint, which are most religiously observed! What must be the moral and social influence of a church which originates and keeps up so much starving, feasting, and idleness!

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dotal order, who, elected to their office by the grossest intrigues, and influenced by a power inimical to the interests of their country, seem intent only upon preventing the debased and demoralized people subject to their control, from

"Tearing their name defiled from slavery's mournful page."

They are destitute of every virtue themselves, and are not likely, therefore, to inculcate virtue in others. They are too idle or incompetent to educate the Greek children, and are virulently jealous of any efforts others may make for this purpose. The American missionaries—a most exemplary description of men—have established schools in Athens and Syra, but the priests employ all the influence they possess over the minds of the people, by means of confession and other religious offices, to thwart and destroy the effect of their labours. Their object is represented to be a subversion of the Greek religion, although all reference to the subject is avoided in the schools, and the books employed have previously received the approbation and sanction of the government. Instead of controlling the turbulent passions and awakening the sober judgment of those who are taught to reverence and confide in them as their pastors, the priests have contributed in no ordinary degree to brutalize and ensanguine the dispositions of the people, leading on enterprizes

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and perpetrating cruelties almost too monstrous to find credence.*

Almost all writers concur in representing the Greeks of the present day as being insolent, unprincipled, faithless, revengeful, and as exceeding the Turks in barbarism and cruelty.†

The interest they excite in the European mind, arises out of causes wholly unconnected with their present claims to consideration. No trace can now be found amongst them of the possession of those qualities indicated in the memorable words of Cicero,—"Remember, Quintinius, that you command Greeks, who have civilized all people, in teaching them meekness and humanity, and to whom Rome

* After the battle of Navarino, a capitulation was entered into by which the Turks were to retire unmolested; but notwithstanding this sacred engagement, the Greeks could not be restrained from committing many horrible cruelties. The bishop, who entered at their head, seeing a poor Turkish woman *enceinte* in the street, slew her with his own sword, and exhibited the infant on its point, saying, "This is the way all good Christians should act, to prevent the propagation of the infidel race."

† Even Lord Byron, who laid down his life in their cause, could not help giving vent to his feelings upon more than one occasion. He said, "I like the Greeks, who are such plausible rascals; with all the Turkish vices, without their courage."—Again, he remarked, "They are such barbarians that if I had the government of them, I would pave the very roads with them."

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owes the light that she now enjoys." The present race have their defenders, however, who maintain that notwithstanding the appalling events traced in every page of their history for nearly 3,000 years—the destruction of their works of art—the devastation of their cities, and their own subjection to slavery—it has not been found possible to destroy their religion, or to extinguish their love of liberty. It is alleged that they possess more sound sense, genius, and intellectual capabilities than could be fairly expected in a nation plunged into such calamities; and that they want only a liberal government, conducted with justice and energy, to subdue and extinguish the vices which the absence of all law and the exercise of Moslem domination have engendered. The creation of such a government, however, appears to be all but impossible. The opposing interests, intrigues, and insolent demands of the petty chiefs present almost insurmountable obstacles to the tranquillization of the country, to the loyal subordination which lies at the foundation of all lawful rule, and to the collection of those revenues which are indispensable to its support.

But, besides these things, there are the difficulties arising out of the confined territory and limited population of the country. Even the combination of all their once mighty republics would be scarcely sufficient to form one kingdom, capable of supporting a monarchical government of the

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most moderate pretensions. What can be said, then, as to the capabilities or prospects of the present narrow and contracted state?

The establishment of a settled government in Greece, is nevertheless a thing greatly to be desired, not only for the purpose of elevating the character of the Greeks themselves, but also for the creation of another element in the balance of nations, and as a counterpoise to the encroaching power of the northern leviathan. Whether any considerable progress towards this will be made by the present king is exceedingly doubtful. He is at once ignorant of the Greek character, and wanting in the energy and resoluteness to grapple with its vices. The mistake committed by him, at the outset of his career, in disbanding the native troops—most of whom had served under the late chief, Capo d'Istrias, and who expected some notice and reward for their previous services—and the introduction of a Bavarian body in their stead, has been productive of the most calamitous results. A large number of the dismissed Greeks, who had been brought up to no other profession than that of arms, were thus sent back destitute and discontented to their respective districts, where they joined and led on the factious parties, and have thus kept alive and extended the insurrectionary spirit, which has been subdued in one place only to burst forth with increased violence in another. The Bavarian troops, on the

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other hand, unaccustomed to the unwholesome climate, and subjected to the harassing duty of pursuing the malcontents from island to fastness, exposed to the heat of the sun by day, and to the ravages of the malaria by night, were soon reduced to half their original numbers, and the survivors debilitated by the attacks of fever.

The Hellenes, having made such sacrifices to throw off the Turkish yoke, and having resisted foreign aggression until scarcely a house or a tree is left standing in their country, are not at all disposed to be treated as a conquered people; and the horrible barbarities they have practised upon such of the Bavarian troops as have fallen into their hands, and the jealousy with which strangers visiting the discontented districts are questioned, before any civility is shown to them, afford abundant evidence that they are yet very far from settling down into a state of social repose.

Towards Otho himself, the natives do not appear to entertain any dislike, and the determination he has formed of sending home the residue of the German troops, when the term of their four years' servitude shall have expired, will, no doubt, operate favourably upon the public mind. His ministry, however, whose haste in imposing heavy taxes upon the already impoverished people, forms but one of the numerous features in their administrative deformity, are strongly disliked, and spoken of

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in the most bitter terms—and not without reason. Notwithstanding the enormous sums transmitted to Greece from England and other parts of Europe, but two roads, each five miles in length, have been completed, and only one other undertaken; while the country is altogether destitute of a lazarette, although every traveller coming from the East is compelled to perform quarantine. Want of money, is the cause pleaded for the absence of these and almost every other thing necessary in a civilized country, although there is no lack of that, for the excessive pay of government employees at home, and the maintenance of ambassadors at the different courts of Europe; albeit, they have literally nothing to represent, except the ruins of former greatness.

A very able work, entitled "Wanderings in Greece," has been written by Mr. G. Cochrane, who was for many years resident in that country, and served in the war. He again visited it in 1834, and through the favour of the young monarch obtained a grant which incurred the hostility of the French government, whose opposition, it appears, became detrimental to his interests. Mr. Cochrane's intercourse with royalty, and with the first society in Athens, has enabled him to draw a very lively picture of the Greek court, nation, and manners;—while his observations upon agriculture and colonization, which he has blended with other things in a most entertaining way, render his work not only highly agreeable, but extremely useful.

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ATHENS AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

THE PIRÆUS, or *Port of Athens,* is at the distance of five miles from the city, and was at one time an excellent town, with a great dock-yard. It is approached by a fine road, and some remains of ancient walls are still to be seen, although the curious will find it difficult to discover the tomb of Themistocles, who is said to have been buried here. The lion that guarded the entrance was taken to Venice, by Morosini, in 1686.

As there is no lazarette here, those who come from Turkey, usually perform quarantine on board a brig appropriated to that purpose; or they may hire a separate boat, at the rate of one dollar a day. Should they prefer the land to the water, however, they may have a tent erected on shore, without any increased expense. This, with provisions, will be furnished at very moderate prices, by the agent to the steam-boat, who keeps a shop, and speaks English and Italian.

The honey from Mount Hymettus, and a species of butter called caimak, are generally deemed very good here.

Phaetons from the different hotels in Athens, will be found in waiting, to convey the stranger to whichever he may select. The charge of one of

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these conveyances is a dollar, for a party; saddle horses are three drachmas each.*

There are three hotels at Athens:—"The Hotel Royal," "The Four Nations," and "The Hotel de France." The last-mentioned is a comfortable and moderately charging house; although it is requisite in all things to arrange about the price. From eight to ten drachmas a day, is about the average charge. A shop kept by a Mr. Brown furnishes almost every thing the traveller will want—amongst the rest, English hams, and excellent *eau de vie*.

Athens, mother of the poetry and wisdom of the world, was formerly twenty-two miles in circuit, and had between 70,000 and 80,000 inhabitants; one-half of whom were slaves, however, and at least one-seventh foreigners. It was founded by Cecrops, in the year 1571, B. C., whence the inhabitants were denominated Cecropidæ, and the country Cecropia. After the death of Codrus, the son of Melanthus, royalty was abolished, and Athens henceforth governed by Archontes.

Xerxes led against this city one of the largest armies, perhaps, that ever was raised, and which, accompanied by the fleet off the coast, advanced

* A drachmâ is about 8*d*. English. 100 leptas make one drachmâ.

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through Thrace, Macedonia, and Thessaly, to Thermopylæ, where Leonidas for a time stopped their progress;—but the Persians became masters of Athens, in the year 480 B. C. On the Romans appearing in the East, Athens and Sparta declared themselves enemies, but Sylla conquered the former, B. C. 87, burnt the Piræus, sacked the city, and deluged the streets with Athenian blood.

Alaric, the Goth, took Athens, A. D. 398, and in forty years afterwards, a general abolition of Paganism took place—the Parthenon was converted into a church, and dedicated to the Virgin Mother, instead of the Virgin Goddess. The Temple of Theseus was dedicated to the warrior St. George.

The decay of the buildings of Athens has been attributed, with good reason, partly to the abolition of Paganism, and partly to the gradual progress of new faiths. In 1204, it formed part of the Venetian dominions, and in 1456 it fell under the yoke of Mohomet II.; but long ere that, it had been despoiled of its honours, by Christian invaders.

Mahomet, who was celebrated in the East for his love of learning, not only respected the antiquities, but visited with attention the Acropolis, and exempted the Convent of Cyriani, on Mount Hymettus, from impositions, because the keys of the city were there presented to him by the abbot.

Alaric the Goth, and Mahomet the Mussulman

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respected the Parthenon; but Morosini and Lord Elgin destroyed its monuments!

Although Athens can no longer be regarded as a school of learning, or as swaying the destinies of surrounding states; though, perhaps, never again destined to astonish the world with her genius, or astound it with her heroism, it appears to have been decreed that the city of Minerva shall again hold a conspicuous position amongst the other and not less distinguished cities of Europe.

Otho having been raised to fill the throne of Greece, all the European powers were represented by their ambassadors, (except the King of Bavaria, who attended in person,) at the ceremony of laying the first stone of the New City, by the young king, in March, 1834, at which time Athens was again raised to a political existence, as the capital of modern Greece; although it should have yielded the palm to Napoli di Romania, but for its classic associations.

During the last Greek struggle for independence, almost every house in the city was destroyed. It can no longer be said of her—

"Proud Athens rears her towering head,
With opening streets and shining structures spread."

Only a few third and fourth-rate houses stand amidst the ruins; the whole scene being unsightly and disagreeable; while the opening of drains and sewers for the new erections, renders the atmosphere

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impure and unwholesome. In summer, breezes from the sea render the dust insupportable.

A palace for the monarch is in progress, but at present it is not more than six feet from the ground. In the mean time, his Majesty occupies a sort of cottage, of such a description as would, in the vicinity of London, let at about 50*l.* per annum.

For an account of the antiquities of Athens, the traveller is referred to Colonel Leake's Athens, or to Mr. Pittaky's description of them. The last-named gentleman is employed in illustrating and decyphering the objects already discovered, and in superintending the restoration of the Temple of Victory, and other works upon the Acropolis. He will be found exceedingly obliging and communicative.

The following are the chief objects of interest still to be seen at Athens;* and which, standing in all the majesty of ruin, exhibit the most affecting combination of splendour and decay.

The Acropolis, where are found the remains of the grandest monuments that human genius ever achieved; the Doric and Ionic orders of architec-

* "Athens compared to Rome, is like the collection of the Elgin marbles, compared with the sculptures in the Vatican."

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ture, defying all human efforts even to copy them, being amongst the rest. There were formerly nine temples, ornamented with three thousand statues; but these have been appropriated to the adorning of most of the capitals in civilised Europe!

The Parthenon, or Temple of Minerva, which stood upon the Acropolis, was built by Ictinus and Phidias, under the orders of Pericles, after having been destroyed by the Persians. It is of the Ionic order, and passes for the *chef d'œuvre* of architecture, ancient or modern. Its destruction is attributable to the Venetians, who, in 1687, when the Acropolis was used as a fortress, despite the solemn awe that memory should have inspired, placed six pieces of artillery and four mortars upon the Pynx, and overwhelmed the sacred pile with red-hot balls. A bomb destroyed the roof, and they set fire to some barrels of gunpowder which blew up part of the edifice. Morosini took away some of the statues to embellish Venice, and an English traveller completed the spoliation of the facade, leaving only two mutilated figures, supposed to be Cecrops and his wife, the former of whom we may almost imagine as declaring, that he would submit to no Christian violation of the laws of sanctuary, after they had been acknowledged and respected for ages, even by Goths and Mussulmans; but that both he and his royal consort would maintain their place in the city which he had founded.

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It was at this portico that Xerxes sat in a chair to witness the battle of Salamis. The centre of the temple is now occupied as a barrack by the Bavarian troops; it having been previously made a church by the Christians, and then a mosque by the Turks.

The Temple of Victory, though almost entirely destroyed, has had its materials preserved, and its restoration is now nearly completed.

The Erechtheon, or Temple of Erechtheus, (who married a daughter of Cecrops,) was formerly a large building said to have been his dwelling, and which served afterwards as a residence for all the Kings of Attica. It was divided into three parts, forming two temples and a portico, dedicated to Erechtheus and Neptune, a small gallery connecting the two temples. Notwithstanding the several distributions of the building, it has preserved its pristine form, and is considered to be the finest specimen of the Ionic order that the world can produce. The smoke from a small modern house, or powder magazine, erected between the caryatides, five of which still support the southern portico, has somewhat discoloured them, but not sufficiently so to conceal their exquisite workmanship.

The Theatre, at the southern base of the Acropolis, exhibits sufficient remains to satisfy an enquirer, as to the extent of the edifice; which is supposed to have been the largest ever built. 30,000 spectators

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are said to have been at one time within its walls.

The Temple of Bacchus is a large cave cut in the rock, in the rear of the Acropolis. At its entrance, there was formerly a statue of the god; but it has been conveyed to England. Two Corinthian columns are all that remain of its architecture.

The Temple of Theseus, one of the most exquisite specimens of ancient architecture, of the Corinthian order, was built by the famous Micon 465 years B.C. and thirty years before the construction of the Parthenon. It would be still perfect, but for its modern roof. At present it is converted into a museum, where, amongst a quantity of dilapidated pieces of sculpture, are some recently discovered tablets, upon which the ancients recorded the arrival and departure of vessels employed upon any important service, together with the names of their commanders, achievements, &c.

Mount Pynx.—Lord Elgin cleared away the earth here, and discovered the steps which define more clearly the form and position of the building. The public assemblies were held here, and within its walls Pericles, Alcibiades, and Demosthenes raised their voices. Aristides was banished from hence; and here also the people were heard against their tyrants.

We may just notice

The Mount of Nymphs, so called from a tablet found there;

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Mount Jupiter; and then

The Areopagus, a rock west of the Acropolis, upon which one wonders how a building of any extent could have been erected. The superior council assembled here, first in the open air, but in process of time they had a roof of tiles. The Areopagus was for a very long period the most impartial and august tribunal that had ever existed, and was so much esteemed that the Mycenians desired to refer to its decision their quarrels with the Spartans.

Socrates' Cell, which is composed of two exterior rooms, and a circular one beyond, cut out of a solid flinty rock;

Diogenes' Lantern, a copy of which is to be seen in the garden of St. Cloud;

The Temple of Eolus, or the Seven Winds; and

The Gate of the Fish Market, are seen in descending into the city.

The Arch of Adrian, of pure marble, richly adorned with sculpture, leads to

The Temple of Jupiter Olympus, a splendid specimen of the Corinthian order. Adrian, the imperial architect, besides embellishing the city, finished this temple, which had been seven centuries in progress. It was half a mile in circuit, and consisted of 116 fine marble columns, each sixty

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feet high, and six feet in diameter, supposed to have belonged to the Pantheon. Sixteen of these remain.

This temple, which is said to be nearly equal to that of Diana at Ephesus,* that of the virgin goddess Minerva, and that of Theseus, appear to be the largest buildings that Athenian devotion and greatness ever reared.

To visit Marathon, horses and provisions for two days must be procured. The journey made, however, barren plains are all that the traveller will behold. For the rest, he must draw upon his reminiscences and invention!

To visit the *Grotto at Antiparos* will occupy four days, and provision must be made accordingly. This grotto is a most wonderful exhibition of the freaks of nature, although it falls very far short of a similar phenomenon at Adelsberg, near Trieste.

* The Temple of Jupiter Olympus was 340 feet long, and 165 feet wide. That of Diana at Ephesus, 425 feet, by 220 feet. The Parthenon, 230 feet, by 98 feet. The Temple of Theseus was 104 feet long. The space allotted to the Temple of Jerusalem was a square of 640 feet, although Prideaux says the structure was only 120 feet long.

Diodorus computes the circumference of a temple at Thebes, at a mile and a half, the height being 45 cubits, and the walls 24 feet thick. Pocock says he found a temple 1400 feet long, and 350 wide, the ruins of which extended for half a mile!

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The voyage to *Kalamachi* is made, with a good wind, in six or eight hours, the usual charge for a boat being four dollars. Those who may desire to return to England from Kalamachi, will cross the Isthmus of Corinth—a distance of about four miles —on horseback, and here take a boat to descend the Gulf of Lepanto to Patras.—Or the new steamer may be taken for Trieste direct, which will be reached in three or four days.

To continue the route herein pointed out, a boat should be hired for Egina and Epidaurus, at the cost of four or five dollars, with orders to be landed at the Bay of Santa Marina, which is only a short walk from the temple. If put on shore at the town of *Scala* or *Egina*, the traveller must hire horses to ride a distance of three hours; or a boat will cast round the nearest point, with the loss of about a day.—The agent for the steamer will make the best bargain for a boat—should that be preferred. A stranger is generally charged twice, sometimes thrice, as much as the agent will procure it for. Having seen the sacred relic, the traveller may either return to Egina, or proceed at once to Epidaurus.

Those who wish to go from Athens to Turkey, may hire a boat, or go by the packet to *Syra*;

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where, hiring another boat, by the day, they may visit the *Cyclades*, land at *Scala Nuova*, and proceed overland by Ephesus to Smyrna.

To ascend Mount Hymettus, horses may be procured at Athens, at three drachmas each, and they will carry the traveller as far as the convent.

MOUNT HYMETTUS.

To proceed thither the visitor will have occasion to cross the river Illyssus, which had its source at the spring Kephalasi, situated in a plain a short ride from Athens, but which, in consequence of the water being exhausted in irrigation, is now dried up. Hymettus has suffered less from the ravages of time than of the axe. The forests of timber that once were its ornament and its pride, are now supplanted by brushwood, and a species of wild thyme, that affords sustenance to myriads of bees whose honey is said to be unequalled. From its summit may be seen all the features of Grecian scenery, on the greatest and most imposing scale. In one view are comprised the islands that form the Archipelago, the Acropolis at Corinth, the Temple at Egina, the Port of the Piræus, the Bay of Salamis, and the Attic plains, backed by the mountains of Pentelicus,

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from whence the ancients hewed the materials for so many magnificent structures. The marble of Pentelicus was of equal beauty with that of Paros, but without its quality of hardening by exposure to the air, or of resisting decomposition. Both the quarries of Paros and of Pentelicus have for a series of years, been in total disuse.

EGINA, OR SCALA.

There is a military college in this island with about eighty cadets, and in which is a small museum with a better collection of antiquities than those of Athens, though scarcely a figure is perfect. At a distance of twelve miles, on the summit of a high hill, stands the Temple of Jupiter Panhellenus, or the god adored by all the Greeks. Twenty-three stone columns of Doric architecture are all that remain of this once elegant structure.

Amongst the numerous islands comprised in the view from thence, is Cape Schillo, formerly Calaccria, where Demosthenes poisoned himself, to avoid falling into the hands of Antipater, his enemy.

Cape Colonna, and the Acropolis at Athens, are also prominent objects in fine weather.

THE PELOPONNESUS OR MOREA.

This celebrated peninsula holds, as it were enshrined, a cluster of once proud republics—their monuments and heroes. Though only 150 miles in

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length, and 130 in breadth, it once possessed a population equal to half that of England and Wales, but which is now lamentably dwindled down to 300,000. Forests and woods, each of which had its god and its altar, have fallen beneath the axe. The peaceful god of the Arcadian shepherds* has long since rendered up his sovereignty to a people less disposed to his rustic rule. The greater part of the present population are Albanians, who, on taking possession of Tripolitza, to their deep and lasting reproach, massacred 3,000 persons in two hours. This horrid and heart-rending event, and its yielding in 1825 to the arms of Ibrahim Pasha,† are the only noticeable circumstances connected with the modern history of the Morea.

The principal places to be noticed here are,

Epidaurus, or Pithauro.—A few miserable houses are all that will be seen here, and the traveller will only remain a sufficient time, therefore, to procure horses for Napoli di Romania; which should be reached before nine o'clock at night, its gates being closed at that hour. It may be entered, however, with some little difficulty, at the Water Gate, at a later hour.

* Ancient Arcadia is now the seats of the Mainotes.

† It was thence that Ibrahim sent seven hundred pair of ears, as trophies, to Constantinople!

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Arrived here, a ride of four hours, through groves of blooming shrubs, will bring the visitor to *Yero*, or *The Valley of Esculapius*, held sacred by the ancients, as the birth-place of the god, in whose time it is said to have been the resort of invalids. A number of semicircular steps, which are the remains of a theatre, are in tolerable preservation; but the Temples of Esculapius, Diana, and Venus, have long since disappeared, leaving only some scattered fragments of two orders of architecture, and the foundations of extensive buildings, to satisfy the traveller that he is upon the site of the ancient "Cheltenham" of Greece.

Tiryrns.—This place does not present even the vestiges of a town, and is only identified by some Cyclopean walls, twenty-three feet thick, and forty-three feet high, which, having been celebrated by Homer, have their great antiquity placed beyond a doubt. They are said to approach nearer to the pyramids of Egypt than any other antiquities yet discovered, and to have been the work of *giants*. A celebrated writer, however, justly remarks, that this is an idea every nation has entertained respecting its ancestors.

Napoli di Romania.—This is one of those places of modern origin, that possess no extrinsic claim to notice. The town is not of any magnitude, and has only 3,000 or 4,000 inhabitants; but the Lion of St. Mark, which stands over the gateway, and the

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towering fortress, crowned with Palemede castles, bear testimony to the fact of its having belonged to the Venetian republic, who conferred upon it the expressive designation of "The Gibraltar of the Archipelago." On emerging from the summit of the castle, the eye suddenly alights upon an infinity of islands, the Argien Plains, and a vast undulating region beyond.

Napoli should have been selected as the seat of government, having an extensive and well sheltered port, and being in all respects placed in a fine position for a naval and commercial capital. The associations, connected with Athens, however, bore away the palm.

It was here, on the threshold of the Church, that the late regent, Capo D'Istrias, was assassinated by two Greeks, who had in vain petitioned him to release a brother, confined for some crime. His servant pursued and shot one of them, the other was taken and hung.

[The Hotel l'Europe is one of the best in Greece.]

Trippolitza, which stands further inland, having been chosen as the Turkish capital of the Morea, and made the residence of a Pasha, astonished Sir William Gell, who states it to be a dull, uninteresting town, "seated in the most uninviting country, and the worst possible climate;" a fact which Lord Byron, Chateaubriand, and most other travellers

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who braved the dangers of penetrating south, had the misfortune of proving, in their own persons.

The Temple of Apollo at Bassâr, whose bas-reliefs are in the British Museum, is the most perfect in the country, unless that of Theseus may be said to form an exception. As to the rest, memory outlives their ruins.

Misitra, or *Sparta*, is so despoiled as to render even its site problematical; yet they still affect to point out the tomb of Leonidas, although the circumstance of four or five bodies having been interred there, raises strong doubts of its authenticity.

Carriages are always in waiting to proceed to Argos, and the distance being only five miles, on an excellent road, it is best to make the excursion and return at once. Those who go direct to Patras, by way of Megaspilion, however, can see it *en route*, it being requisite to sleep one night at the Convent of St. Georgio.

Argos is said to be the most wholesome town of the Morea; but it is destitute of accommodation, almost the only good residence in it being that of General Gordon, who has the command of the Greek army.

The most interesting object at Argos, is the Acropolis, with its Palamede castles and monastery,

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to build which the Venetians destroyed many fine remains. A short distance from thence is a theatre of great antiquity, by which must be understood, a number of semi-circular steps cut in a rock. There are also some very imperfect remains of a Roman Temple, with its secret passage, from which the responses were given by the unseen priest, in the name of the god. In the time of Pausanias, there was a statue of Jupiter, brought from Troy, remarkable for having three eyes, and said to be the same at the foot of which Priam was murdered in his palace, by the son of Achilles.

This neighbourhood was famous, as the haunt of the *Nemean Lion*.

FROM NAPOLI DI ROMANIA TO CORINTH.

In about four hours, the traveller diverges from the road, and in half an hour he will have ascended the mountains on which are found the remains of

Mycenea, the early capital of Greece, founded by Perseus, "The King of men," and destroyed more than 2,240 years ago, by the Argiens, who were jealous of the glory the Mycenians had acquired, in having sent forty warriors to die with the Spartans at Thermopylæ. Its Acropolis, perhaps the most ancient in the world, and of the most massive materials, exhibits two styles of architecture—

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rough Cyclopean, consisting of unhewn masses of stone—and regularly constructed walls.

The Gate of Lions, or rather of Panthers, in relief, without heads, are mythological figures, through which Perseus passed when going to the Siege of Troy. It is supposed that this edifice, like the Acropolis at Athens, and the Temples of Egypt, possessed a sacred character.

The Tomb of Agamemnon, exhibits three different styles of architecture; the interior is composed of two large oval chambers, lined with stones of huge dimensions, one of which, over the entrance, is the most extraordinary, and perhaps the largest, in any building, ancient or modern. It measures 27 feet by 17 feet, by 4½ feet, and weighs 133 tons.

To visit Megaspilion, a detour must be made to the left, passing through *The Nemean Plains*, than which nothing can be more tedious, for though *Hercules* here furnished himself with his club, so destitute is it now of wood, that the traveller will find it impossible to procure even a walking stick.

At the Convent of St. Georgio, accommodation will be afforded for the night.

At *Megaspilion*, every attention will be paid by the hospitable monks, who point out one of the finest and most interesting views that Greece can boast of, including the tops of Helicon and Parnassus. They are also proud of possessing the largest wine vat in Europe, the filling and emptying

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of which appears to be a duty paramount to all others.

At a long day's journey from here, is

CORINTH.

Seated on the isthmus which separates the Peloponesus from Attica, this was one of the most populous and wealthy cities of Greece, but its few miserable and dirty modern houses, and destitution of all comfort and accommodation, form a striking contrast with its former luxury and splendour. A group of eleven Doric columns alone remain to identify the spot, not a particle of the Corinthian order of architecture being found!

The former magnificence of this city was proverbial throughout Greece, and the saying,—"It is not for every one to go to Corinth," was expressive of its high rank amongst the surrounding states. It is now equally distinguished for its poverty, insalubrity, and generally uninteresting character; and it may be justly said, it is not every one who would wish to go there.

Of how many great historical events has this been the theatre! Though "the prow and stem" of Greece, it was destroyed by the Romans, B. C. 146.* It was subsequently rebuilt by Julius Cæsar

* It was during the conflagration of the city at this time, that several metals in a fused state, accidentally

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and Adrian, and a second time destroyed by Alaric. The Venetians again restored it, and it was sacked by Mahomet II., when the republics of Argos, Sparta, and Athens were swallowed up in a single province of the Roman Empire, and became the capital and residence of a pro-consul.

Paul was at Corinth, A. D. 52, and staid there a year and a half, when he sailed for Ephesus.

From the decaying Acropolis, which is more than double the height of the Pyramids, a fine panoramic view is had of the Isthmus, of the Gulf of Lepanto, of the position of the canal which Nero commenced in order to join the two gulfs, and, in fine weather, of the Parthenon at Athens, forty-four miles distant.

Four rooms destitute of all furniture, excepting a mattress on the floor, constitute an hotel.*

FROM CORINTH TO PATRAS,

Is a distance of 90 miles down the Gulf of Lepanto,

running together, produced the composition named Æs Corinthium, or Corinthian brass.

* The state of society here may be judged of from the sudden disappearance of the purser of his Majesty's ship, *The Portland*, who preferred going into the town to ascending the Acropolis with the rest of the officers.

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and to accomplish it a boat should be hired, at from eleven to thirteen dollars, to proceed to the Bay of Cresa, or Scala di Salona, there to wait whilst the party proceeds on horseback to Delphi and back, which occupies the greater part of a day.

Delphi is situated in the cleft of two mountains, and contains only about 1,000 inhabitants. It is the most celebrated shrine in the world, and one to which people went in crowds to be deluded. Of the temple, however, not a wreck remains; but at the bottom of a deep ravine, surrounded by the steep and barren rocks of Parnassus, is the far-famed Castalian spring, where the Pythian used to make her ablutions, before placing herself upon the tripod in the Temple of Apollo.

"The Delphic oracle was but a theatric deception, a splendid falsehood; no answers from the god were to be obtained gratuitously—thus a single word, uttered by a senseless girl, sufficed to produce bloody wars, and spread desolation through a whole kingdom."

The mountains of *Helicon*, *Cithæron*, and *Parnassus*, were ever deemed to be the favourite haunt of the Muses. Dr. Clarke considers their grand aspect and romantic valleys as having had a won-

Every search was made for him, but nothing farther than of his having been heard to ask his way to the Hotel, was ever discovered relative to him!

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derful influence in promoting the high flights of the Grecian Muse, and doubts whether any great poet could spring up on a flat and even campaign. His statement of their height being equal to any in Europe, is only to be tolerated as a poetic license: although their height is certainly the only thing to compensate for their barrenness.

The poet *Æsop* was thrown from the rock Nauplia, in the year 560 B. C.

Patras is a small, uninteresting modern town, and has no antiquarian interest whatever.

Austrian brigs leave Patras for Trieste, on the 8th and 21st of the month. See pages 6 and 7, ante.

Boats to Missolonghi cost five or six dollars;* to Zante from six to eight dollars.

An English steamer arrives here from Malta on the 22nd of the month, goes on to Corfu, and returns on the 31st, stopping only a sufficient time to take up the mail, when she proceeds to join the communication at Malta, for England or Egypt.

* This sum takes the traveller to Missolonghi and back. The chief interest of this place is derived from its having been the residence and death-place of Lord Byron; and from its memorable siege and catastrophe. The only object to be seen there is a pyramid of human *scalls*.

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To Corfu the distance is about 100 miles, and from thence to Trieste about 500.

The English Consul-general, George Crowe, Esq., is a gentleman to whose civilities and attentions travellers are much indebted. The Hotel Britannica, though bad, is the best house at Patras. The hostess is a Turkish woman, bought and afterwards married by the proprietor, who is a Greek.

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CHAPTER XVI.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

Political State of the Islands—Zante—Corfu.

This name is given to a group of islands, chiefly extending along the coast of Albania, the principal of which are Santa Maura, Cephalonia, Cerego, Zante, and Corfu.

When the French became masters of Venice, in 1797, they made these islands an appendage to it; and after the session of that capital to Austria, they endeavoured to retain them, under the title of The Ionian Republic. They were unable, however, to do so against the power of England, which, at the Congress of Vienna, was declared to be their protector.

There is a representative body, which is presided over by a High Commissioner sent from England, who also protects the Greek confederation by a garrison.

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I. ZANTE.

THIS is the ancient Zacynthus, and is situated opposite to the western coast of the Morea. It is about fourteen miles long, and eight broad, with a population of nearly 40,000. It is celebrated for the beauty of its gardens, and for having produced the hyacinth, and a great natural curiosity, viz. some wells of boiling pitch, at the extreme end of the plain, north of Keiri. The pitch bubbles up from beneath the surface of the water, and is gathered in a liquid state, by means of myrtles, which are as common here as thorns in other countries.

A steam-boat leaves for Corfu on the 12th and 29th of the month.

The English steamer touches here, going to and returning from Patras. For about two dollars a day, a boat may be hired to visit Santa Maura, Cephalonia, and the other small islands, as well as to proceed to Corfu.

II. CORFU.

This is the key of the Ionian, Adriatic, and Mediterranean seas. Homer called it Phæacia; its present Greek name signifies summit. The mountain on which the city was built is seventy miles long, twenty wide, and one hundred and eighty in

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circumference. It may be considered as the capital of the Ionian islands.

Paul Panuta, in an old history of Venice and its possessions, says that Corfu was formerly a large and populous city, united to the island of Paxo, until divided by an earthquake, that created a vacuum of ten miles, similar to that which is supposed to have separated Italy and Sicily.

Amongst other events that entitle this island to a conspicuous place in history, are, the shipwreck of Ulysses, who was thrown naked upon its shores—its regal reception of Alexander and his mother, on leaving the Macedonian court, accompanied by his master Aristotle, who expiated in exile a passion that philosophy does not always surmount—and its being the place from which the Empress Helen, mother of Constantine, commenced her pilgrimage into the Holy Land.

Very large sums were expended by the Venetians in their fortifications here; nor are those of the English government on the Vido, less extensive. At least a million sterling will be expended before these formidable works are completed, when half the present number of men will be sufficient for its garrison. No foreigners are allowed to see the works, and others must obtain the governor's order, which, from the urbanity and attentions manifested by Sir Howard Douglas to all strangers, is attended with no difficulty!

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The climate and position of this island are hardly to be surpassed: there is an excellent road extending sixty miles, and there are many pleasant drives. On arriving here from Greece, one is struck with the cleanliness of the town, and with the appearance of the English soldiers in its streets.

The governor's palace is a splendid stone building, the rear of which commands the sea. In the front there is an esplanade, and a handsome terrace.

The traveller's attention should be especially called to the remains of a small temple recently discovered, a short distance out of the city—to the olive trees that astonish by their size and exuberance—and to the view from the citadel, which may be termed unique.

The best hotels are Taylor's, the Bella Venetta, and the Agnesia.

A steam-boat leaves Corfu for Ancona, on the 16th of the month, and makes the voyage in forty-eight hours. Another proceeds to Zante on the 8th and on the 26th.

For Malta, an English steam-packet leaves on the 29th, touches at Patras on the 31st, and reaches Falmouth in about twenty days. Distance, 1,900 miles.

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Those who may wish to make an excursion to Jannina, will proceed as follows:—From Corfu, by boat to Santa Caranta (five hours); from thence to Delvino, by land (four and a half hours)—first day. From Delvino to Delvinaki, on horseback (ten hours)—second day. From Delvinaki to the convent of Zitza, where the traveller will be accommodated by the monks for the night. From thence to Jannina will occupy four hours.

There is a return by a shorter road; first day—the Khan of Resina. Second day—to Seiades, on the coast, from whence the voyage to Corfu is made in about five hours.

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CHAPTER XVII.

ITALY—(HOMEWARD.)

Ancona. — Trieste. —Venice. — Padua, Verona, Milan.— Excursions.—Great St. Bernard.—Geneva.—Paris.

THE steamer leaves Corfu for Ancona and Trieste on the 8th, and on the 21st of each month.

Upon his arrival at

ANCONA,

the traveller will be subjected to fourteen days' quarantine in a good lazarette, after which he may procure a passage in a vetturine to Rome, the journey to which occupies about four days; the charge, including provisions, being about eight shillings per day.

Proceeding on to

TRIESTE,

the same quarantine as at Ancona will have to be

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performed;* after which a diligence may be had to Milan, and thence to Paris.

But should the traveller prefer to spend some little time here, he may do so most pleasantly.

Trieste is a large, clean, well-built city, of considerable commercial importance, and with upwards of 50,000 inhabitants. In 1730, the Austrians determined upon making it a naval port, and declared it to be free. The Pope did the same by Ancona, and the Venetians by Venice. It has a good harbour for shipping.

Being a modern-built place, Trieste offers little to amuse the curious visitor. There is a good theatre, however, and some pleasant spots in the environs of the town. Pola, at the distance of a day's ride, is remarkable for its amphitheatre and other Roman remains. Having seen these, the quicksilver mines, and the peerless grotto at Adelsburg—which is incomparably finer than that at Antipatros,—the shortest way to England is to proceed onward to Gratz, Saltzburg, Munich, and the Rhine; but the most interesting mode of making the journey, is to return to Trieste, and take the steam-boat to Venice, which is reached in eight or nine hours.

* There are three lazarettes here, and persons occupying them are supplied with provisions from a contiguous hotel, whence they may also procure such furniture as they desire, at moderate charges.

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VENICE.

"A thousand years their cloudy wings expand
Around me, and a dying glory smiles
O'er the far times, when many a subject land
Look'd to the winged lion's marble piles,
Where Venice sate in state, throned on her hundred isles."

After the transfer of the seat of the Roman Empire to Byzantium, Italy was divided into seventeen departments, of which Padua and its vicinity formed one. From this time the invasions of the Goths became both more frequent and more dangerous; and during that of Alaric, in the year 400, some citizens of Aquileia sought an asylum upon one of the many sand-banks at the mouth of the Brenta. It was only a few hundred feet in extent, but being the highest of the group, it was called Rivo alto, or Rialto. Here they took up their abode, but the place being destitute of vegetation and of fresh water, and the colonists being without the materials for building or for settling the soil under their feet, their only means of subsistence were derived from fishing, and the sale of salt collected from the lagunes.

Another invasion of the barbarians in 409, so increased the numbers of these immigrants, that the

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senate of Padua, which appointed magistrates for their government, decreed, in 421, the founding of a city, and the building of ships for its defence. In 451, a considerable addition was made to its wealth and population, by most of the respectable inhabitants around, flying hither from the hostile aggressions of Attila.

In 697, a Chief, or Doge, with supreme power, and the right of nominating his successor, was elected; and no material change in the government took place till the thirteenth century, when he was deprived of the latter part of his functions, and the grand council, which consisted of 500 or 600 members, reduced their acting number to forty, who delegated their power to ten, and these again to three, who were thus invested with an uncontrolled and unquestionable power over the lives and property of all.

Upon the discovery of the ashes of St. Mark, in Alexandria, in the year 810, they were conveyed thither, and the apostle was declared to be the patron saint of Venice.

The Venetians continued to extend their commerce, and to augment their territories, until sixty islands, connected by five hundred bridges, formed their state. A group of mere huts became converted into a city of palaces; and though destitute of land, and of the means for producing the necessaries of life; with no other defence than their

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lagunes and their navy, and a population never exceeding 200,000 souls, they grew up into a mighty republic, which was absolute mistress and queen of the Adriatic, held the balance of power in Italy, defied the European league, extended her conquests along every shore of the Mediterranean, and despoiled Egypt, Syria, Turkey, and Greece, of their glorious monuments, in order to embellish her own proud palaces withal—

> "She look'd a sea Cybele, fresh from ocean,
> Rising with her tiara of proud towers
> At airy distance with majestic motion,
> A ruler of the waters and their powers:
> And such she was;—her daughters had their dowers
> From spoils of nations, and the exhaustless East
> Pour'd in her lap all gems in sparkling showers:
> In purple was she robed, and of her feast
> Monarchs partook, and deem'd their dignity increased."

The Venetians were the first people in Italy who had printed books. They originated a Gazette in the year 1600, and the example was followed at Oxford in 1667, and at Vienna in 1700. They also undertook the discovery of America, and the passage to India by the Cape of Good Hope.

But the decline of Venice was to be as extraordinary as its rise had been. The progress of manufactures in the west of Europe, while her's remained stationary, and the loss of the Morea, the Archipelago, and Cyprus to the Turks, and of the Italian pro-

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vinces to the French, at once put an end to her commercial empire, and paralysed her arms. She made an ineffectual struggle for some time, to regain her lost possessions in the Levant; but a series of disasters abroad, with increased administrative terrors at home, at length reduced her, at the commencement of the eighteenth century, to a state of mere passive existence, in which she ingloriously dragged along, until the great council, threatened with external aggression, and fearing the violence of the people, whose rights they had so long usurped, declared the government to be defunct, burnt the golden book, in which the names of the self-constituted aristocracy were inserted, and without striking a blow in its defence, permitted the winged lion of their saint to be supplanted by the eagle of France, amidst the enthusiastic shouts of the multitude! *

By the treaty of Campo Formio, in 1798, the Ionian possessions of Venice were ceded to the French, and the once imperious Queen of the

* It is a curious fact, that during the decline of the state, the numbers of the priesthood and the vices of the people increased in an almost equal ratio—the former, until there was one priest for every fifty-four persons; the latter, until women sold their children, and magistrates enforced the contracts!

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Adriatic was made subject to Austrian domination—

"An emperor tramples where an emperor knelt."

. . . "Venice lost and won,
Her thirteen hundred years of freedom done,
Sinks, like a sea-weed, into whence she rose!"

Venice, however, is still beautiful in her ruins.

"You may break, you may ruin, the vase if you will,
But the scent of the roses will hang round it still!"

The Piazzo St. Marco, and the adjoining edifices, form a group to which Europe offers nothing in comparison. Around three-fourths of the Piazzo is the Procurative, or Arcade, over which reside the Viceroy and nobility; and this is flanked by the Royal Mint and Garden. The remainder of the Piazzo is occupied by a Tower, built in the twelfth century,—(from which Galileo made his astronomical observations),—and the Church of St. Mark, wherein repose the remains of the Apostle. It was began in 976, and finished in 1071. It is of the Greek and Arabic style of architecture, and is composed entirely of marble and mosaics, having 500 columns of the most precious and varied specimens of the former, including Oriental alabaster, jasper, verde antique, and porphyry, some of which are said to have belonged to the temple at Jerusalem. Over the portico, are "The Bronze Horses," which 1500 years since were so highly appreciated for their antiquity and beauty, as to be considered

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the finest ornaments of the Hippodrome in Constantinople. These and the Equestrian Statue of M. Aurelius, in the Roman capital, are the only ancient monuments in metal now extant.

The Palazzo Ducale, or Palace of the Doge, a continuation of the same range of buildings, is a magnificent structure supported by an infinity of columns, every one of which has a different cap. It is approached by the Giant Staircase of pure Carrara marble; the ornaments of which are chiselled with all the minutiæ of cameos. Its interior, from the massive carving and gilding of the ceiling, and the fine and valuable paintings inserted therein, greatly surpasses all oriental pretensions; but like a Turkish seraglio, it had its secret council or divan, and its executioner's rooms—the waters of the Adriatic being substituted for those of the Bosphorus.

In different parts of the exterior were placed lions' mouths, cut in marble, for the reception of anonymous accusations. It had also its inquisition, with thumb-screws, and other devices, to extort confessions; with cachots or cells, 20 feet below the canal, for winter; with others called piombi, in the roof, for summer, to put to the torture those who were suspected of dissenting from or questioning the decrees of the immaculate triumvirate.

Lord Byron's description of this place is so much better than any thing else that could be given, that

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no apology will be deemed necessary for inserting it here.

"The communication between the Ducal Palace and the prison of Venice, is by a gloomy bridge, or covered gallery, high above the water, and divided by a stone wall into a passage and a cell. The state dungeons, called "pozzi," or wells, were sunk in the thick walls of the palace, and the prisoner, when taken out to die, was conducted across the gallery to the other side, and being then led back into the other compartment or cell, upon the bridge, was there strangled. The low portal through which the criminal was taken into this cell, is now walled up; but the passage is still open, and is still known by the name of the Bridge of Sighs. The pozzi are under the flooring of the chamber at the foot of the bridge. They were formerly twelve, but on the first arrival of the French, the Venetians hastily blocked or broke up the deeper of these dungeons. You may still, however, descend by a trap-door, and crawl down through holes, half choked by rubbish, to the depth of two stories below the first range. If you are in want of consolation for the extinction of patrician power, perhaps you may find it there; scarcely a ray of light glimmers into the narrow gallery which leads to the cells, and the places of confinement themselves are totally dark. A small hole in the wall admitted the damp air of the passages, and

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served for the introduction of the prisoner's food. A wooden pallet, raised a foot from the ground, was the only furniture. The conductors tell you that a light was not allowed. The cells are about five paces in length, two and a half in width, and seven feet in height. They are directly beneath one another, and respiration is somewhat difficult in the lower holes. Only one prisoner was found when the republicans descended into these hideous recesses, and he is said to have been confined sixteen years. But the inmates of the dungeons beneath have left traces of their repentance, or of their despair, which are still visible, and may, perhaps, owe something to recent ingenuity. Some of the detained appear to have offended against, and others to have belonged to, the sacred body, not only from their signatures, but from the churches and belfries which they have scratched upon the walls."

Amongst the other leading objects of interest in Venice, may be mentioned The Academia della Belle Arti, Barbarigo, Pisani, Manfrini, and Vice Ré Palaces.—St. Giovanni e Paolo, St. Georgio Maggiore, Redentore, Gesuiti, Scalzi, della Salute, St. Rocco, and St. Zeminiano Churches.—The Armenian Convent; two granite columns, brought from the Archipelago, one supporting a saint, and the other the winged lion; and the Arsenal, at the gate of which is seen the lion of the Piræus.

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It is well situated for an occasional tour, and has a fine and agreeable climate, while the palace of a doge may be rented at less than £60. a year, and a box at the opera—to which only those of Naples and Milan are superior—for half that sum. The gondola, which supersedes the carriage, with two men, who officiate as servants, entails an expense of but four shillings a day; and for the supply of necessaries and luxuries, "the merchant of Venice" enjoys all the advantages of a free port. Yet, notwithstanding all this, as well as the hospitality with which strangers are treated, the amusement to be derived from either of five theatres, concerts, and nightly soirées, Venice is little resorted to. The reason of this does not lie very deep. "A stranger may soon delight in Venice, but I doubt if he could ever feel at home. Every hour would be a contradiction to his whole past existence. There must be thousands here who never saw a hill, or a wood, or an ear of corn growing, or a vineyard, or a green field, or heard a bird sing, except in a cage, or slaked their thirst, even in this thirsty climate, at a spring-head, or seen its waters bubbling from out the earth: spring water, like other luxuries, is an importation.

"Every thing at Venice is dreamlike; what is more so than to walk on the Rialto, where Antonio spat on the Jew's gaberdine?—to stand where Othello addressed the assembled senate?—to lose

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yourself in search of old Priuli's palace? And for realities, go to St. Mark's of an evening; see its fine square in all its marble beauty; the domes and minarets of its old church, the barbaric gloom of the doge's palace; its proud, towering campanile: look upon the famous Corinthian horses; and think of their emigration; on the winged lion of the Piræus;—walk in the illumination of its long line of caffés;—observe the variety of costume,—the thin veil covering the pale Venetian beauty;—the Turks with their beards, and caftans, and long pipes, and chess-playing; the Greeks with their skull-caps and richly laced jackets:—look at this and believe it real, and ever after put faith in the Thousand and One Tales.

"Venice is in every thing delightful. It is the most picturesque city in Europe, and full of character and variety. In its palaces and public buildings, you may read sermons in stones. The history of Venice is written upon her front, from the rude, massy, frowning architecture of barbarism and power, to modern elegance and imbecility."

But with all this, Venice, as already intimated, is an unintelligible place;—strange and perplexing in everything to the stranger, who can scarcely accommodate himself to scenes and circumstances so different to all he has ever seen and experienced before. It has been hastily said, that "it is not merely that there are canals and gondolas; but

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that it is all canal and all gondola. It can be likened to nothing but a large fleet, wind-bound; you order your boat and row round, and all that are at leisure do the same."—How can a being who all his long life has been used to riding and walking, settle down in a short time, to so altered a mode of life?

The Venetians are a lively and ingenious people, extravagantly fond of amusements, and much addicted to humour. The fair sex are given to great levity of manner, and no woman thinks it *comme il faut* to be seen much in the society of her husband, or to be thought living without a *cavalière servente*. Lord Byron says, "the general state of morals here is much the same as in the Doge's time; a woman is virtuous who limits herself to her husband and one lover; those who have more are considered a little wild or diffuse."—"Love, in this part of the world is no sinecure, changing or going upon renewed leases. The carnival of Venice is the season when every body makes up their intrigues for the ensuing year, and cuts for partners for the next deal."

The carnival, however, is no longer what it was. Out of doors, it is confined to a few miserable masked figures, the characters being supported only by the lower orders. In society, it is somewhat better, and balls and soirees are kept up with great spirit.

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The hotels to be noticed at Venice are, the 'Grande Brittagne,' the 'Lioni Bianci,' and d'Europe.' Of these, the first-mentioned is the most reasonable. At the last-named there is a *table d'hote.*

Messrs. Holmes and Co., the English bankers, whose house is always open for the reception and entertainment of respectable travellers, will furnish the earliest and most ample information relative to the sailing of steam-boats in the Adriatic, the Levant, or the Red Sea, and will also cash bankers' bills or circular notes, whether they be addressed to their firm or not. Too much cannot be said of the obliging civility of the gentlemen of this firm.

To reach England, the traveller should proceed from Venice to

Padua, the birth-place of Livy, and which is still a considerable town, with 50,000 inhabitants and a university. The Abbey of Justina and its church will be found beautiful specimens of architecture, while the piazza running along in front, is one of the largest and noblest in Europe. As Mr. Eustace justly remarks, Padua is still a great, and, in many respects, a beautiful city. Its circumference is near seven miles, and notwithstanding the general nar-

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rowness of its streets, many of its buildings, both public and private, are truly magnificent.

Not far from here; *i. e.* at *Arqua*, is the tomb of Petrarch, which may be seen on the way to

Verona, which is beautifully situated, partly on a hill which forms the last swell of the Alps, and partly on the borders of an immense plain, extending from those mountains to the Apennines. Some fine palaces and religious structures decorate the city; but the Roman Amphitheatre, erected by Flaminius, will be the great object of interest. The circumference, forming the ornamental part, has long since been destroyed, but the rest is in a fine state of preservation. There are forty-five rows of steps, or ranges of seats, carried all round, and formed of fine blocks of marble; upon which 22,000 persons may be seated.

At *Milan*, various objects deserve attention. The cathedral is a superb Gothic structure, its exterior being ornamented with 4,500 marble statues. The Arch of Peace is of the same costly material. The Scala, though somewhat smaller than that of St. Carlos, at Naples, is considered to be the finest in the world. We may also particularize the Arena, and the inimitable cartoon of the last supper, by Leonardo da Vinci, in the Church of the Dominicans.

Public conveyances go daily to Sesta Caleade, in time for a steam-boat, which proceeds to the two

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fairy Palaces of Barromeo, on the Lago Maggiore, where, in a garden, on the largest laurel known, Napoleon cut the word "VICTORY." In this same garden is found a rose without a thorn!

The Geneva diligence passes through Baveno, which is situated on the lake, to the Simplon, the most gigantic operation of modern times.

If at a proper season of the year, the traveller should stop at Martigny, and ascend the Great St. Bernard, over which Napoleon conducted the French army; partake of accommodation at the Convent for the night; and next day proceed over the mountain on mules to Chamouni, or the Mer de Glace, and from thence to Geneva and Paris.

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